



**CHRISTIE'S FINAL MYSTERY**  
A diamond brooch and a ring found in a trunk bought by her fan  
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2016 OFFSHORE BLOCK BIDDING

## Govt set to offer higher gas prices

Seismic survey in Bay next year to pinpoint prospects, attract int'l oil companies

SHARIER KHAN

Learning a lesson from poor response to the two previous offshore oil and gas exploration block biddings, the government is set to revise its model production sharing contract (PSC) with better incentives and have a survey conducted in the Bay of Bengal next year to stimulate bidders' interest.

The government would float a tender in the middle of this month seeking a contractor to conduct a seismic survey early next year in the Bay covering 10,000 line-kilometre area in both deep and shallow waters. At present, Bangladesh has no data about offshore prospects to attract oil companies, said a competent source in Petrobangla.

"The survey is estimated to be completed

within eight months and would generate data to be available to interested bidders in the planned 2016 offshore block bidding," said the source. This survey may cost around \$25 million and two-thirds of the area to be surveyed is in deep waters.

The data would give a general idea of geological structures within Bangladesh's maritime boundary that would indicate prospects of oil and gas reserves.

The government in 2008 and 2012 held two offshore block bids, but could secure only a couple of PSCs, including one with American ConocoPhillips. This lukewarm response was primarily attributed to maritime disputes with Myanmar and India, which has recently been addressed.

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Kids elated as the train is about to leave the platform, taking them far from the madding crowd of the capital yesterday, two days before Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken at the Airport Railway Station.

PHOTO: STAR

## Hindus bid farewell to Durga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The celebration of this year's Durga Puja ended yesterday as Hindu devotees bade farewell to the Goddess Durga and her four children.

They immersed the idols of the deity and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh in the water across the country yesterday even though Bijaya Dashami, which

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## The man with a mission

Successful Bangladeshi selling Britishness abroad

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

When George Osborne told the Institute of Directors that small companies felt "too daunted" to export to countries outside Europe, he could have cited the story of Mamun Chowdhury's duffel coats as an inspiration to Britain's manufacturers.

Mamun has made it by, as he puts it, "selling Britishness" - competing in the international rag trade from a small factory in the East End of London.



Mamun Chy

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## Joy overshadows hassles

Home-goers defy sufferings on highways to celebrate Eid tomorrow

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and AKRAM HOSEN

They struggled for a spot in buses, trains and launches. The journey was agonising but there was happiness in their faces as they were going home to celebrate Eid with their families and friends.

A large number of city dwellers left the city yesterday as Eid is only a day away. The religious festival of the Muslims will be observed across the country tomorrow with due religious fervour, solemnity and the spirit of sacrifice.

This year Eid virtually coincided with Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Hindus.

The last moment rush for home will continue today. With many already gone from the capital, the hustling bustling metropolis started showing signs of calm, which is expected to remain until the end of the week.

Expectedly, most people opted for trains and launches. There was a stream of people towards Kamalapur Railway Station and Sadarghat Launch Terminal, reaching its peak around noon.

Most of the 46 trains that departed Dhaka were hours behind schedule.

"I do not understand why the rail authorities even bothered with a schedule when nothing was following it," said Shafiqul Alam, a passenger of Ekota Express, which was scheduled to leave Kamalapur for Dinajpur at 10:00am but eventually left at 2:00pm.

Kamalapur Station Manager Khairul Bashir said trains were being late because of delays in passengers getting on and off the trains at stations on the way.

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## AL to decide Latif's fate on Oct 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Abdul Latif Siddique's fate in the Awami League will be determined at a meeting of the party's Central Working Committee on October 12.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made it clear that the process to remove Latif from the cabinet was already

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ADIEU DURGA: Devotees bid farewell to the Goddess and her children through immersion of idols into the Buriganga at Basila in the capital, ending the Sharadiya Puja festival, yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 3 students among 5 dead in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Five people, including three college students, were killed when a bus ploughed through passengers of another bus just after they got down from the vehicle in the district's Shibchar upazila headquarters yesterday.

The dead are Imran Hossain, Rehana Akhter, Halima Akhter, Surja Bhanu, 35, and her nine-month old boy Shakil. Of them, Imran, Rehana and Halima were students on degree courses at Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury Degree College.

The accident happened on Dhaka-Kawrakandi-Khulna highway at Bandorkhola as a

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## ISIS beheads UK aid worker

Threatens to kill another US hostage



PHOTO: AFP / BRITAIN'S FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
Alan Henning holding a child in a refugee camp on the Turkish-Syrian border.

AGENCIES

The so-called Islamic State (ISIS) jihadist group claimed responsibility for the murder of British aid worker Alan Henning in a video showing his apparent execution.

In the video published on early yesterday, almost identical to those released after three previous murders, a masked ISIS militant also threatens a hostage he identifies as an American, Peter Kassig.

Both men were volunteers working to bring aid to civilian populations in Syria when they were captured. Henning, 47, was a driver in a humanitarian

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