



APPAREL IMPORT DUTY

Leading US retailers ask their govt to bring it down

PAGE B1

KASHMIR CONFLICT

Pakistan provoked tit-for-tat shelling, Indian defence minister alleges

PAGE 8

HER ETHEREAL BEAUTY

A film buff writes on French actress Juliette Binoche

PAGE 11

Gas crisis may ease next year

Bibiyana, Jalalabad and Bapex fields to add more gas to meet deficit

SHARIEF KHAN

The country's decade-old chronic gas crisis may ease to a great extent within the next six months, largely due to increased gas production from Chevron's Bibiyana and Jalalabad gas fields and a few Bapex fields.

The country is being dogged by 500 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) gas shortage, equivalent to a quarter of the demand, affecting from kitchen stoves to power generation.

Chevron has already undertaken a \$500 million project to increase gas production from the Bibiyana gas field.

"This \$500m flagship project, one of the largest foreign investment projects in Bangladesh's history, is critical for the country's energy security," says Geoff Strong, Chevron Bangladesh president.

"Once fully operational, the project will deliver an additional 300 million cubic feet

KEY POINTS

Available gas supply (+) 2,300 mmcf

Chronic gas shortage 500 mmcf

Bibiyana to add 300 mmcf

Jalalabad to add up to 90 mmcf

Bapex to add from 4 fields 100 mmcf

Gazprom to add from 10 wells 50 mmcf

of natural gas per day, and 4,000 barrels of condensate. Since 2011, we have drilled 11 new development wells at Bibiyana, with plans to complete three more this year," he said.

"The other key project is Chevron's Jalalabad drilling programme. Jalalabad is currently the third largest gas production field in Bangladesh. We are investing to further increase production from the field in order to meet Bangladesh's growing demand for low-cost, home-grown energy. We plan to drill three new development wells at Jalalabad next year," Geoff said.

The Bibiyana expansion project work has also revealed that the field has 5.2 trillion cubic feet gas, up by one tcf than previously certified, and is capable of producing 1.1 billion cubic feet a day without harming the gas field structure.

Petrobangla sources said Chevron had

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Fishermen catch, carry and sell hilsa in broad daylight at Chandpur yesterday even though there is a government ban on hilsa fishing between October 5 and 15 to protect the population of the national fish.

PHOTO: STAR



French novelist wins Nobel in literature

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Patrick Modiano, the French novelist whose works often explore the traumas of the Nazi occupation of France and hinge on the themes of memory, alienation and the puzzle of identity, won the 2014 Nobel Prize in Literature yesterday.

In an announcement in Stockholm, the Swedish Academy cited Mr Modiano's ability to evoke "the most ungraspable

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BRAC BANK HEIST

Mastermind, 6 others held; Tk 56 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It took Raja Mia, a picklock, just half-an-hour to open the vault at the Brac Bank branch in Joypurhat.

He along with Manjurul Hasan Shamim, the mastermind of the heist, and seven others made away with Tk 1.96 crore from the branch at Bank Para in the town on September 26.

As part of the plot to rob the bank, Shamim rented a room at Mousumi Market that shares its wall with Shahjahan Mansion which houses the bank on the first floor. He used the name of a so-called NGO "Bangladesh Poor Development Ltd" to rent the room on September 12.

Watching the bank's activities, the gang started boring a hole in the wall, and it took them six days to finish the job.

Raja, Shamim and two others entered the vault room through the opening on September 26 night and immediately dis-

connected the lines of CCTV cameras and the alarm.

Four others -- Bulu, Swapan, Iqbal and Nawsher -- kept watch outside, while their accomplice Badal operated from the capital.

It all came to light after Rapid Action Battalion arrested Raja, Shamim, and five others in separate drives in the capital and elsewhere over the last two days.

Rab said it seized Tk 56 lakh from them, and was trying to recover the remaining money.

The elite force arrested Raja, who once worked at a shoe store, in Munshiganj on Wednesday.

Acting on information gleaned from him, Rab personnel arrested Shamim and five others from different places, Rab's Legal and Media Wing Director Mufti Mahmud Khan said at a press briefing at the Rab headquarters in the capital yesterday.

The five are -- Badal Mallik alias Babla,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Cyclone Hudhud may hit India's east coast

STAR REPORT

Hudhud, the cyclone in the North Bay of Bengal heading towards Indian eastern coast, is likely to make landfall at Vishakhapatnam in two days, weathermen said.

The storm that spawned over North-Andaman sea is likely to intensify further into a severe cyclone before hitting the coast, projected Dhaka Meteorological office.

"It would not come to Bangladesh, unless it changes direction. But we need to follow the cyclone to say exactly where it would make its landfall," Rasheduzzaman, the duty

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

GEN MANZUR MURDER

CID given 3 more months to probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) three more months for a further investigation into the 1981 murder of Maj General Abul Manzur.

Manzur, a sector commander of the Liberation War, was killed at Chittagong Cantonment on June 1 of the year, just two days into the assassination of the then president Ziaur Rahman.

Judge (in charge) Badrul Alam, of the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, asked CID to complete the probe by January 8 next year after the investigating agency submitted a petition seeking more time.

This is for the fourth time Abdul Kahar



Akond, a special superintendent of police of CID, who is in-charge of the further investigation, has sought time extension.

He told the court that he was yet to communicate with the wife of Gen Manzur, now in the USA for statement. But he met Lubna Manzur, elder daughter of Manzur, in the USA.

Soon after the court ordered a further investigation into the case on February 27 this year, Akond went to the USA to meet Manzur's wife but he could not as she was sick.

A foreign renowned journalist Lawrence Lifschultz had written a series of articles in The Daily Star and Prothom Alo on the murder of Manzur, in which he cited an eyewitness.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



A family gets down from the roof of a bus at Dhaur in Dhaka yesterday. They had gone to Bogra for their Eid holidays but couldn't get a return ticket to the capital and had to make the long journey risking their lives.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

AIR STRIKES CONTINUE
ISIS seizes large part of Syrian town

REUTERS, Mursitpinar Turkey/Beirut

Islamic State fighters seized more than a third of the Syrian border town of Kobani, a monitoring group said yesterday, as US-led air strikes failed to halt their advance and Turkish forces nearby looked on without intervening.

With Washington ruling out a ground operation in Syria, Turkey described as unrealistic any expectation that it would conduct a cross-border operation unilaterally to relieve the mainly Kurdish town.

The commander of Kobani's heavily outgunned Kurdish defenders said Islamic State controlled slightly less than a third of the town that lies within sight of Turkish territory.

However, he acknowledged that the militants had made major gains in a three-week battle that has also led to the worst streets clashes in years between police and Kurdish protesters across the frontier in southeast Turkey.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Islamic State, which is still widely known by its former acronym of ISIS, had pushed forward yesterday.

"ISIS control more than a third of Kobani. All eastern areas, a small part of the northeast and an area in the south-east," said Rami Abdulrahman, head of the Observatory which monitors the Syrian civil war.

Esmat al-Sheikh, leader of the militia forces in Kobani, said Islamic State had seized about a quarter of the town in the east. "The clashes are ongoing - street battles," he told Reuters by telephone from the town.

Explosions rocked the town throughout Thursday, with black smoke visible from the Turkish border a few kilometres (miles) away. Islamic State hoisted its black flag in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BOMB ATTACK
Woman, 2 sons critically hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkhira

Three members of a family suffered burns as miscreants hurled a "petrol bomb" on the house of a college teacher in Kalaroa upazila of Sathkhira in the early hours of yesterday.

Reasons behind the incident could not be known immediately.

Khalilur Rahman, a lecturer of Sheikh Amanullah Degree College, said he had no idea as to who could make such an attack on his wife Jharna Begum, 35, and two sons Tanvir Rahman, 12, and Asad Hosen, 7, students of class seven and one, and why.

According to local people, he has no enemy.

Khalilur, also Awami League president of Langoljhal union in the upazila, said miscreants hurled a petrol bomb on his house around 1:00am. Jharna and her two sons at the time were sleeping on a bed while Khalilur was lying

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1