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Parents wait for children to come out after school in front of the capital's Willes Little Flower School and College yesterday. The country has been experiencing unseasonably heavy rain and thunders for the last couple of days due to a western low that formed over parts of Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Macron, Le Pen have polar opposite views

AFP, Paris

Centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who go head-to-head in the second round of France's presidential election on May 7, are diametrically opposed on issues ranging from taxes to Europe.

Here is where the two candidates stand on the key questions:

EUROPE

Le Pen has long insisted on the need for France to drop the euro single currency and return to the franc, and also leave Europe's Schengen visa-free travel zone.

She has predicted the EU "will die" and has vowed to hold a "Frexit" referendum on France's membership of the European Union.

Le Pen wants to abolish an EU directive allowing companies in one EU country to send their workers elsewhere in the bloc, and opposes the CETA trade deal between the EU and Canada.

Macron, a former banker and economy minister who ran on an unabashedly pro-European campaign, wants to bolster the eurozone by setting up a separate budget for the 19 countries that use the common currency.

He also proposes giving the zone its own parliament and finance minister.

Macron also wants Europe to strengthen its external borders by setting up a common border force, pool more of its defence forces and impose higher tariffs to protect European industry from unfair competition, particularly from China.

He is generally supportive of international trade deals and he backs the treaty with Canada.

IMMIGRATION

Le Pen has pledged to reduce net immigration -- the difference between the number of people arriving and leaving -- to just 10,000 and has vowed a "moratorium" on legal immigration.

She would make it harder to qualify for asylum and curtail policies that let migrants bring relatives to France, while



Macron



Le Pen

Chinese cos buy Chevron Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

US oil giant Chevron Corporation yesterday announced that its subsidiary, Chevron Global Ventures Ltd, entered into an agreement to sell the shares of its wholly-owned indirect subsidiaries operating in Bangladesh to Chinese consortium Himalaya Energy Co Ltd.

Himalaya Energy is owned by China ZhenHua Oil Co and CNIC Corporation Ltd. The financial deal has not been disclosed.

Chevron Bangladesh operates Block 12 (Bibiyana Field) and blocks 13 and 14 (Jalalabad and Moulvibazar fields). Closing of the transaction is subject to satisfaction of certain closing conditions.

Chevron is currently responsible for more than half of the country's daily gas production. The company provides more than 1,400 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d) of gas from these three fields against the country's daily production of around 2,600 mmcf/d. Of the three fields, the Bibiyana alone provides more than 1,100 mmcf/d of gas.

Besides, Chevron daily produces around 9000 tonnes of condensate -- a liquid fuel by-product found in some gas fields. The country's other gas fields produce around 1,500 tonnes of condensate.

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1 year on, no probe progress, no arrest

RAFIUL ISLAM

A year has passed since the murder of LGBT magazine editor Xulhaz Mannan and his friend, but police could neither complete the investigation nor arrest any of the five killers.

Family members of the two were deeply saddened and disappointed by the failure of police. They expressed doubt whether they would get justice.

"We don't see any sign of getting justice as none of the killers has been arrested yet," Xulhaz's elder brother Minhaz Mannan Emon told The Daily Star on Sunday.

"We want the government to arrest the killers immediately and bring them to book," he said.

The Detective Branch of police, the investigation agency of the case, claimed to have arrested two people in connection with the killings.

One of them is Shariful Islam Shihab, 37, who was arrested in Kushtia on May 14 last year. Police claimed that he supplied firearms. Another arrestee, Rashidun Nabi, also an accused in Jagannath University student Nazim Uddin



Xulhaz Mannan

David Cameron likely to visit Dhaka tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron is likely to be in Dhaka on a very brief visit tomorrow.

Cameron, who is coming at the invitation of an NGO, will leave Dhaka on Thursday after his less than 24-hour stay here, foreign ministry sources said.

His visit was originally planned for four days, but was cut short apparently due to the upcoming UK elections slated for June 8.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has called the election, as polls indicate she could win a huge Tory majority in parliament.

During his brief visit, Cameron, who was PM from 2010-2016, will also meet PM Sheikh Hasina.



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

JAZAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-31 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Criteria for participation:

- Materials used should be produced locally.
- All submissions must be accompanied by the name of the designer, address, contact number, price, and a description of the product clearly written in English and Bengali. Submissions should include details of the colour, the nature of the fabric, and embellishments (if any).
- Designs should be original and suitable for the weather conditions.
- The attires and accessories sent for the album will be returned.
- Entry fee per submission is Tk.500 (minimum six entries for each participating house).



Last date of submission:
11 May, 2017

For submission of products and matters related to advertisements, please contact Syed Ahmed Chowdhury (01711 623 905) or Kamal Hossain (01716 232 534).

Participants nationwide are requested to send their selected outfits and accessories for the magazine.

Address: The Daily Star Centre, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Tel: +88-02-9144330 (Hunting), 58156305.



They are back! Trucks are again parked along the road from Sat Rastor Mor to Tejgaon rail gate in the capital yesterday. The road was declared free of parked trucks more than a year ago by the DNCC mayor.

PHOTO:
TUHIN SHUBRA ADHIKARY,
PRABIR DAS

