



'New gas field' found in Bhola

Again, disclosure made before required geological tests



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Explorers have struck gas about 32km north of the Shahbazpur Gas Field in Bhola, a southern coastal district. A total of 600 billion cubic feet of gas has been found in Bheduria union, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam disclosed to reporters at the Secretariat yesterday. The discovery of the country's 27th gas field came at a time when the government is concentrating on the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) amid dwindling reserves. The new reserve would increase Bhola's gas reserve to 1.5 trillion cubic feet, the cabinet secretary said without

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An international flight lands at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport amid fog around noon on Sunday. Poor visibility led to suspension of flight operations for hours every day over the last seven days.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Cold to rattle the north the entire month

Temperature elsewhere may rise in a day or two

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing cold wave sweeping over many parts of the country will be over in the next day or two but not in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, where the cold wave will last the entire month.

"The ongoing cold wave in Khulna division will end in a day or two. But there will be a fresh cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur regions by the end of the month," a duty forecasting officer at Dhaka Met office told The Daily Star yesterday.

Temperatures across the country is also unlikely to rise soon, he said, adding that the fog situation will also continue till the end of January.

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LEGALITY OF ARTICLE 70

HC delivers split order

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday gave a split order on the legality of article 70 of the constitution, which deals with the cancellation of membership of MPs for voting against their political party.

Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury, senior judge of the two-member HC bench, issued a rule on the government, asking why the article should not be declared unconstitutional.

Justice Md Ashraful Kamal, the other judge, summarily rejected the petition.

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DHAKA-SYLHET 4-LANE HIGHWAY

Company that got the job bribed officials

Govt blacklisted it, says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

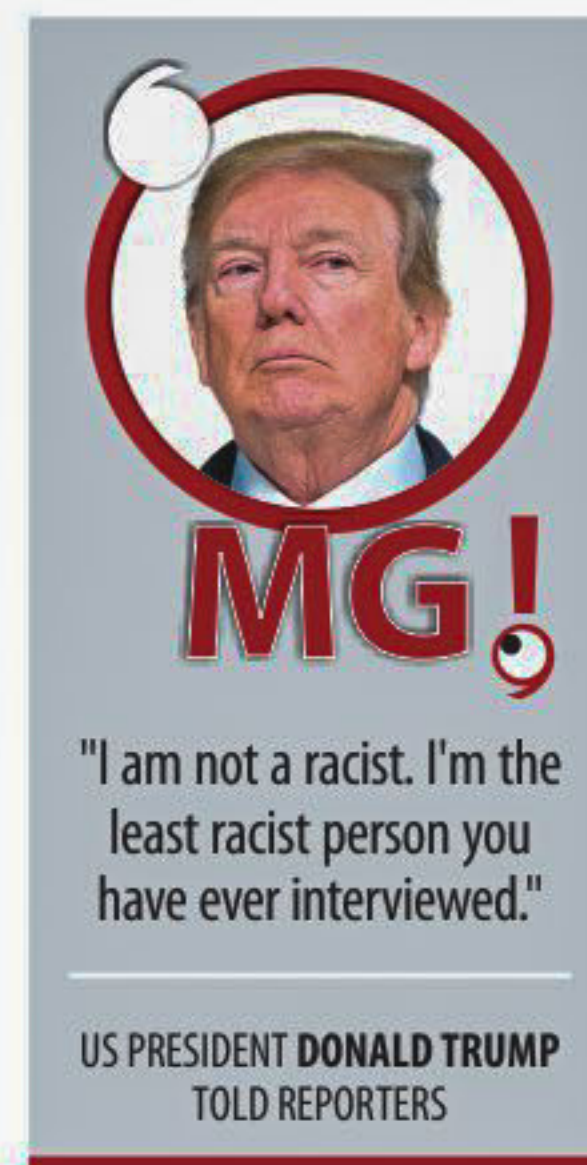
Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the company that got the contract for expansion of Dhaka-Sylhet Highway had bribed government officials.

So, the government "blacklisted" the firm and decided to fund the expansion work of the 226km Dhaka-Sylhet road to a four-lane highway on its own, Muhith said.

He revealed the information while speaking at a press meet at the NEC auditorium yesterday, ahead of the meeting of Bangladesh Development Forum.

He said, "[The expansion of] Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, somehow, we had to drop it. Because, the party who got the contract, they came up, in the very beginning, with offer of bribe, open bribe.

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"I am not a racist. I'm the least racist person you have ever interviewed."

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TOLD REPORTERS

BANK RECRUITMENT

Candidates demand fresh exams for all

BB to hold emergency meeting today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Candidates of eight government banks and financial institutions yesterday demonstrated across the country demanding cancellation of Friday's "controversial" recruitment tests and holding the exams afresh for all the candidates instead of just some.

Several hundred candidates, under the banner of "General Students" formed an hour-long human chain in front of the National Museum in the capital.

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Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan started the New Year with a bang, taking three for 43 and scoring 37 in the tri-series opener against Zimbabwe, which the hosts won by eight wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Clinical Tigers brush aside Zimbabwe

BISHWAJIT ROY

The Tigers began their on-field journey in 2018 with a satisfying victory at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was satisfying because on the way to the eight-wicket win - which was achieved with 129 balls to spare - over Zimbabwe, the hosts did not stumble at any stage of the first match of the New Year. From Shakib Al Hasan's magical two

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DNCC MAYOR RACE BNP picks Tabith Awal

AL to name its candidate today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP executive committee member Tabith Awal has won the party ticket for mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation.



Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the BNP, announced his name last night after a meeting at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League is set to finalise its mayor candidate today at a meeting of the party's Local Government Nomination Board.

As many as 16 mayor hopefuls collected

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