



**BUSINESS**

**Tk 2,000 minimum tax likely**

Taxpayers who have to file returns to avail 38 types of services are likely to be required to pay a minimum tax from the next fiscal year, said finance ministry officials yesterday. As per the plan, a person will have to pay a Tk 2,000 as a minimum tax even if he or she claims to have no income. The tax authority has made submission of tax returns mandatory for taxpayers.

STORY ON B1



Risking life and limb, a man jumps into a bus in front of City College on Mirpur Road yesterday. He could have easily slipped and fallen under the bus. Passengers taking such risks and buses allowing them to do so has become a norm in the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**Ilisha declared 29th gas field of Bangladesh**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an estimated gas reserve of 200 billion cubic feet, Bhola's Ilisha has become Bangladesh's 29th gas field.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday made the announcement at a press briefing from his Baridhara residence in Dhaka.

He said the daily production of the gas field is estimated to be around 20 million cubic feet (mmcf).

With the new reserve, the total gas reserve in Bhola now stands at 2.23 trillion cubic feet.

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) started the drilling work at the site on March 8 and completed it on April 14.

In the next 30 days, three drill stem tests (DST) were done, down to 3.4km depth. The DSTs—a method of determining extractable reserve—found that the pressure is around 4,646 PSI, and the gas flow is around 20 mmcf.

Nasrul Hamid said, a process plant has been installed in Bhola and the government is importing another one to extract gas from the well.

"The price of total reserve in the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

**He died waiting to get back the job he lost unfairly**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sarder Abdur Razzak, a former senior officer of Rupali Bank Ltd, was acquitted and proved innocent by a court 13 years ago in a corruption case. But Razzak, who died about two years ago, got neither his job back nor any benefits from the bank even though he had asked for those time and again. After the death of Razzak, his son Sarder Asaduzzaman, 32, who has a speech impediment, asked the bank for the payment of his father's arrears, dismissal benefits, remission of punishment, and posthumous benefits. He failed to get those. Aggrieved by the bank authorities' inaction, Asaduzzaman and his two sisters Kamrunnahar Kumu and Sharmin Nahar, who are facing serious financial difficulties, have approached the High Court for a redress. They filed a writ petition on March 30 seeking an HC directive on the bank.

**Though acquitted in a graft case, former banker couldn't get his arrears in 11 years; family still fighting a legal battle**

Following the petition, the HC bench of Justice Mahmudul Haque and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder yesterday ordered the Rupali Bank chairman to dispose of an application submitted by Razzak's son Asaduzzaman. Asaduzzaman, who has other health issues, told The Daily Star on the Supreme Court premises yesterday, "I cannot speak properly due to physical disabilities. I'm now so helpless as my father became paralysed in 2014 and died in 2021 and my mother died in 2006." "Now I'm studying BA at Khulna City College. I have no source of income. My two sisters help me continue my studies. I hope I will win the legal battle." Kajal Rashid Biswas, who is providing Asaduzzaman with legal assistance pro bono, told this correspondent that Razzak was the manager of Rupali Bank's Barodal branch in Satkhira.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

**DEATH THREAT TO PM AL stages demos across country**

**Demands arrest of Rajshahi BNP leader; BNP office comes under attack in Netrakona**

STAR REPORT

The Awami League and its front organisations held protests across the country yesterday demanding the arrest of BNP's Rajshahi district unit Convener Abu Sayeed Chand for issuing a "death threat" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

They also vowed to politically resist BNP on the streets if it attempted to plot conspiracies or cause unrest in the country.

On Friday, BNP leader Chand reportedly threatened the PM while addressing a public rally held at Shibpirhat School field in Rajshahi.

During his speech, Chand said the BNP has no other demand except to ensure that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina goes to her grave.

Protesting the comment, Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said the BNP has not yet abandoned its violent and murderous political tactics.

"BNP's Rajshahi district unit convener gave a death threat to the prime minister...This is something that all BNP leaders are thinking about. And it was accidentally

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



**Two cases filed against BNP leader**

STAR REPORT

BNP's Rajshahi district unit Convener Abu Sayeed Chand was sued in two cases yesterday for issuing a "death threat" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a public rally in Rajshahi.

Awami League's Baneswar union unit General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad filed one of the cases with Puthia Police Station in the early hours.

Azad sued Chand under the Anti-Terrorism Act, said Faruk Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

In his case, Azad alleged that the BNP leader Chand threatened the PM while addressing a public rally held at Shibpirhat School field in Puthia upazila on Friday.

BNP's national standing committee member Selima Rahman attended the rally as the chief guest, with Chand in the chair.

During his speech,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

**First Saudi woman travels to space**

AFP, Cape Canaveral



A private rocket carrying the first Arab woman astronaut has blasted off on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Rayyanah Barnawi, a breast cancer researcher, is the first Saudi woman to voyage into space and is joined on the mission by fellow Saudi Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter pilot.

The Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2) crew took off aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral at 5:37pm (2137 GMT) on Sunday.

The team also includes Peggy Whitson, a former Nasa astronaut, who will be making her fourth flight to the ISS, and John Shoffner, a businessman from Tennessee, who is piloting.

"Thanks for putting your trust in the Falcon 9 team," SpaceX chief engineer Bill Gerstenmaier told the crew minutes after lift-off.

"Hope you enjoyed the ride to space. Have a great trip on Dragon," he added, referring to the spacecraft. "Welcome home to zero-g, Peggy."

The capsule docked at the ISS around 9:25 am (1325 GMT) yesterday. The crew is due to spend around 10 days on board the ISS.

**Russia attacked by Ukrainian saboteurs**

**Claims Moscow; Kyiv says it's Russian opposition groups' doing**

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia yesterday said it was battling a cross-border incursion by saboteurs who burst through the frontier from Ukraine, in what appeared to be one of the biggest attacks of its kind since the war began last year.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region said a Ukrainian "sabotage group" had entered Russian territory in the Graivoron district bordering Ukraine, and was being repelled.

But the Ukrainian outlet Hromadske cited Ukrainian military intelligence as saying two armed Russian opposition groups, the Liberty of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), both consisting of Russian citizens, had carried out the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian President Vladimir Putin had been informed and that work was under way to drive out the "saboteurs", the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported.

A senior aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Kyiv had nothing to do with the incursion, putting it down to Russia's emerging "violent resistance movement".

Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram that the Russian army, border guards, presidential guards and the FSB security service were involved in the operation. He said at least six people had

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



An aerial view shows destruction in the frontline town of Bakhmut, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Donetsk region, in this handout picture released on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**DOCU ON MODI BBC gets summons from Indian court**

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Delhi High Court yesterday issued a summons to British broadcaster BBC in a defamation case over its documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi that questioned his leadership during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The suit was filed on the basis that the documentary "maliciously defamed India", said Siddharth Sharma, an advocate for Gujarat-based non-profit Justice on Trial that filed the suit.

Sharma said the court issued a summons to the BBC yesterday with the next hearing set for September 23.

Relations between India and Britain have soured after the documentary and a "breach of security" incident at the Indian High Commission in March, at a time when they are struggling to make progress in free trade talks.