The World on Time



Hotel Intercontinental in Hamburg, Germany Monday. - PID photo

PM urges German businessmen to invest in Bangladesh

HAMBURG, July 15.º Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina invited the German businessmen to come to Bangladesh for exploring excellent investment opportunities, reports UNB.

Bangladesh and grow with us. I promise you will not be disappointed," she said addressing the German business leaders at a dinner hosted by Bangladesh Ambassador Shamser M Chowdhury here Monday night.

Her government is pursuing relentlessly to attract foreign

a policy of rapid economic growth through a process of market liberalisation, privatisation and polices geared to attracting foreign direct invest-

"We welcome the participation of foreign investors in our development efforts. To this my government pledges good governance, functionally free convertibility of currency. developing export processing zones by both the public and

Hasina said her government believes that there are excellent prospects for setting up a large number of textile mills in Bangladesh to feed the ready-

"Of course, the fact that Bangladesh enjoys GSP facilities should also prove an im portant incentive to investors in your country," she told the gathering.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister said her government was making serious efforts to attract German investment in the country. Investment seminars on Bangladesh will be held in Hamburg and Cologne in November this year, she said.

The one in Hamburg is being organised with the help of East Asia Association Hamburg and the one in Cologne by German Investment and Development Company.

Singapore Air Chief in city

The Chief of Air Force, Republic of Singapore, (RSAF) Major General Goh Young Siang arrived in the city last night on a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS. He is leading a three-mem-

ber delegation. Chief of the Air Staff Bangladesh Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed received the guests at the air-

Principal Staff Officer and other senior BAF officers were present at the airport to greet

Bhuiyan demanded their immediate release and withdrawal of "false" cases filed against them.

mand went unheeded, the government would have to bear serious consequences.

Extortionist

kidnappers started hurling cocktails and opened fire on police. At one stage, police returned the fire. One of the bullets hit Mithu's head and he died on the spot. However, other members of the gang managed to escape and police rescued Shah Alam.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Motijheel thana.

JRC talks

Bangladesh side of the Ganges. The JRC meeting will also discuss sharing of waters of other common rivers with particular focus on Teesta and at least five other rivers, it was learnt.

ate on flood management, flood forecasting, irrigation, river basin development and sharing of waters of other cross-border rivers. Bangladesh shares 54 common rivers, of which accord on only the Ganges was reached in December last. Both sides mentioned in the Ganges treaty that they are "desirous of sharing by mutual agreement the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and making optimum utilisation of

the water resources of their region. Talks on finding a permanent sharing formula for the Teesta waters is expected to be a vital agenda against the backdrop of both countries having

permanent arrangement with India for sharing of the Teesta waters will allow unhindered and optimum use of Teesta barrage.

It was learnt that at the upcoming meeting of the JRC. Bangladesh will also seek India's participation in construction of the proposed Ganges barrage. India's assurance in this regard was given during the last meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission, held in New Delhi

5-yr export, import policy soon: Tofael

Exporters to be given maximum facilities

Country's next export and import policies will be announced soon, targeting attainment of self-reliance in trade by boosting exports rapidly and protecting the local industry. The policies, drawn up for

five years, are almost at final stage and likely to be declared shortly, hopefully within a couple of months, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed told UNB in an interview yesterday.

For the first time, he said, the import policy would con-tain a section describing its overall objectives and ensuring easy import of raw material and machinery for the exportoriented industries.

"We are also in favour of liberalisation, but we'd adjust tariff rates looking into the interest of our domestic industry...We'd not rush into trade liberalisation as was done by our predecessor," he said.

The export policy, on the other hand, is being formulated eyeing on a rapid export growth at least 20 per cent each year during the next five fiscals-and further diversification of ex-"Our topmost priority is to

increase the export earnings at a faster pace," said Tofael, flanked by Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury and other officials at his Secretariat office.

Added the minister: We will do our best to increase the ex-

IOJ's countrywide demonstration tomorrow

The Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) has demanded enactment of blashphemy law to take stern action against anti-Islamic activities in the country, reports The IOJ leaders at a post-

hartal rally yesterday at Purana Paltan crossing also demanded cancellation of the education report based on Qudrate-Khuda Commission. It announced countrywide

demonstration tomorrow to

protest the police action during yesterday's hartal and press for the release of arrested IOJ workers. IOJ leader Moulana Muft Fazlul Huq Aminee claimed

that 500 workers were injured and 5,000 arrested throughout the country. The meeting decided to hold grand rally at the city's Manik

Mia Avenue on August 22 to be followed by a march towards "Shikha Anirban" in Dhaka Cantonment and "Shikha Chi rantan" at Suhrawardy Udyan. It demanded death sentence to Dr Ali Ashgar for his alleged comments against Islam.

Presided over by Moulana Azizul Huq Shaikul Hadis, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Mufti Fazlul Huq Aminee, Moulana Mohiuddin Khan, Moulana Abdul Matin, Abdur Rakib, Mosleuddin Abu Bakar, Shafiul Alam Pradhar and Moulana Prof Akhtar Faruq.

From page 1

and Gas (USA). Mobil Eastern

(USA), Petronas Carigali

(Malaysia), BAPEX (Bangladesh),

Cairn Energy (UK). Shell

Hydrocarbon, Unocal (USA).

PTI Oil and Gas, Triton (USA),

Hondo Oil and Gas, Oakland

International (USA) and South

2:30 pm at the Petrobangla's of-

fice. Presided over by the

Chairman of Petrobangla,

Mosharraf Hossain, the closing

ceremony was attended by 46

representatives of the compa-

nies participating in the bid-

for 12 blocks - 9 of them on-

economy of the country," En-

ergy Minister Lt Gen (retd) Noor

Uddin Khan said after the bid-

termed the response of the for-

eign companies to the bidding

rounds as "beyond expectation."

Energy Dr Mike Watts, who was

officially requested to speak on

behalf of the foreign explo-

ration companies operating in

Bangladesh, said that the out-

come of the bid round would ef-

fectively determine the future

development of the Bangladesh

industry would in turn provide

the springboard for economic

growth well into the next cen-

tional oil giant Shell Oil and

Cairn Plc of England jointly

submitted proposals for six

included the regions of

Noakhali, Barisal, Comilla.

Of the 15 blocks on offer,

However, at the request of

"The fact that Shell, recog-

Faridpur, Khulna and the off-

Block Nos 1, 2 and 23 — situated

in north Bengal — did not at-

the Petrobangla chairman,

Shell Oil agreed to bid for the

nised as the most successful

company in the world, has

submitted 6 bids, reflects both

the seriousness of Shell's in-

tentions in Bangladesh and the

company's belief in the gas re-

serve potential in the country,"

remarked a source on the return

of Shell Oil, which had discov-

remaining three blocks.

The most sought after blocks

Of the 20 bidders, multina-

Dr Watts added that the gas

The Petrobangla chairman

Executive Director of Cairn

shore and three off-shore.

They submitted 28 proposals

"It will change the face of the

The bidding round closed at

Asia Oil Co Ltd.

ding.

ding round.

gas industry.

blocks.

shore blocks.

tract any bidders.

ports ... We will give the maximum facilities to the exporters. Speaking in favour of drawing up the policies for five years, the minister said a longterm policy always encourages an entrepreneur as it helps in

making decision, specially in investment purpose. The commerce secretary said there would be some 20-30 specific changes in the import pol-icy, framed after detailed discussions with the business organisations.

Chowdhury said the policy planners were thinking whether the list of import-restricted items could be shortened or the import of secondhand machinery be allowed under the new import policy.

Asked about the problem in

getting the generalised system of preference (GSP) from the European countries, the minister said the European Union agreed to resume GSP with two-stage derogation if the "fake" certificates were cancelled.

"We are still trying to solve the problem without cancelling the certificates. We are yet to take any decision in this respect." he said.

Asked whether any special step would be taken for the readymade garments, leather and shrimp industries that experienced a slowdown, he said he would discuse the problems of the industries with ministries concerned for their solu-

He said he would hold talks with the finance minister within a couple of days about the problem of leather and jute industries.

He identified fund shortage in the banks as the "genuine" problem for developing industry and said the government was taking some measures, including creating at Tk 500 crore fund, for industrial financing.

Parents lock son in bathroom to go on vacation!

NEW DELHI, July 15: Police in the capital have arrested a couple for locking up their son in the bathroom and then heading off on a three-day vacation a newspaper reported today. savs AP. The couple told the police in

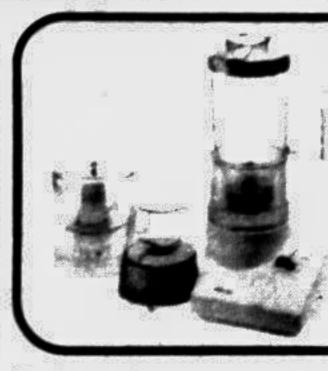
New Delhi that they gave their 10-year-old son a loaf of bread and a mat to sleep on. The Times of India newspaper reported. The couple said the boy often stole household goods and they

did not want him to have access to the other rooms, it quoted police as saving. Neighbours called the police after hearing the boy crying on

Friday, the second day of confinement. Police traced the sound to the bathroom and rescued the boy. It was not clear why the parents left their son behind while

going off to Hardwar, 200 kilometers to the north. If convicted, the parents will

face up to one year in jail.



Blender with mill and chopper

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Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

Service contract of BJMC

chairman cancelled By Staff Correspondent

The government cancelled last Monday the contract appointment of Moniruddin Ahmed as chairman Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).

According to jute ministry sources, he had served the government on contract basis during the last 11 years. His last two-year contract was scheduled expire in June next year.

Earlier he was appointed director, finance, in BJMC on a five-year contract. During the BNP rule, he got extension twice in his two-year term as chairman of BJMC. His contract was later extended for two years by the caretaker government.

When contracted State Minister for Jute and Textile A K Faizul Hug said his contract was cancelled because he had already completed 11 years service on contract basis.

Korean factory at DEPZ may reopen today By Staff Correspondent

The South Korean sportswear manufacturing factory at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone at Savar, closed since last Saturday, is expected to reopen today. Bangladesh Export Process

ing Zones Authority Chairman Moazzem Hossain visited the Youngone Hi-Tech Sportswear Industries Ltd yesterday. Later he told The Daily Star that due to hartal the factory could not resume operation yesterday. The management of Youn-

gone had sacked 42 workers on Sunday whom it considered responsible for the labour unrest. the BEPZA Chairman said. A senior factory official said, some 300 to 400 labourers

gathered on the factory premises yesterday expressing their readiness to resume work. He said, the recent labour unrest was part of a conspiracy against foreign investment in the country.

Fire at garments factory in city

By Staff Correspondent A fire broke out in a garments factory on Mazar Road at Mirpur Section One in the city The blaze damaged machines

and other accessories in the factory located on the fourth and fifth floors of a six-storey building near 2nd colony at about 8:45 pm. No casualty was reported.

According to Petrobangla

Along with the ongoing ex-

experts, there is over 30 trillion

cubic feet of gas reserve poten-

ploration activities of compa-

nies like Cairn and Occidental,

the current bid round will pro-

vide both the short-term gas re-

serve and the long-term reserve

base necessary for sustainable

the bidding schedule in March

15 allowing the oil companies

to submit their bids within the

bidding for gas and oil explo-

ration in the country. The first

Kilometres

round was held in late 1993.

The government announced

This was the second round of

tials in Bangladesh.

economic growth.

next 120 days.

70 hurt during hartal

From page 1 tended support to the hartal

while the ruling Awami League and some like minded parties and groups opposed it.
In the city, police resorted to lathi charge on pickets at Mirpur Section 10 Gol Chakkar at about 9 am when the pickets were damaging rickshaws. The pickets pelted stones on police. At one stage, police lobbed one

round of teargas shell to dis-

Eyewitnesses said, at least ten people were injured during the clashes between the police and the pickets. Police arrested 30 persons from the spot.

perse the pickets.

Around noon, police re-sorted to lathi charge at Farmgate when activists of JCD, BN-P's student front, along with Jubo Dal activists, were damaging some auto-rickshaws. The JCD-Jubo Dal activists pelted stones on police. Police picked up 19 people from the spot.

At about 11:15 am, an antihartal procession clashed with some pro-hartal activists near Gulistan Golap Shah Mazar

Front organisations of Muktijoddha Sangsad brought out separate processions protesting against the hartal In the capital, all transports except rickshaw kept off the roads from morning. From early afternoon, however, some

the roads. Educational institutions remained closed while most private business houses kept their shutters down till early afternoon. Government offices functioned as usual while office-goers were seen walking to their offices.

scooters, auto-tempos and pri-

vate motor vehicles came out on

IOJ and Jamaat activists brought out separate processions in different parts of the city including Jatrabari, Motijheel, Paltan, Bijoynagar, Kakrail, Malibagh, Mogbazar, Mohakhali, and Mirpur.

At Jatrabari crossing, prohartal activists damaged a truck at 8:30 in the morning. said police. At the same point, an autorickshaw of The Daily Star also came under attack by pro-hartal activists and they snatched Tk 45 from the driver. No inter-district bus left the

city's Gabteli. Sayedabad and Mohakhali bus terminals. Passenger launches operated from the Sadarghat terminal. Two Biman flights, one to Chittagong and the other to Jes-

sore were cancelled. All other scheduled flights both domestic and international, operated normally. Train communication between Dhaka and Narayangani

came to a halt as pro-hartal activists went on rampage at Narayangani rail station in the morning. Railway sources at Kamalapur Station told The Daily Star that Dhaka-bound Jamuna Express was stopped by pickets at Aulianagar in Mymensingh while a Akhaura

Italian DFM From page 1

gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

She will call on Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria during her stay here.

Asia Cup From page 1

qualified for the World Cup by winning the ICC Trophy in Kuala Lumpur in March.

"We would be foolish to take Bangladesh lightly," said Raja whose team lost to world champions Sri Lanka by 15 runs in Monday's opener. Their confidence will be

high after winning the ICC Trophy and they will be trying their best to show that giving them one-day status was justi-"They will go out there

knowing that losing will hurt us more than them. The pressure is on us especially after the loss to Sri Lanka. "We should have beaten Sri

Lanká yesterday after coming so close," Raja said. "We did well to bowl them out for 239 but then could not have a matchwinning partnership." The fielding also needs to be

a bit tighter. We did well for 40. overs but then slid back a bit." Bangladesh, coached by former West Indian opener Gordon Greenidge, have made seven changes from the squad that won the ICC Trophy. But Captain Akram Khan, a big righthand batsman, insists the nucleus of the winning combina-

tion was not disturbed. "We still have nine senior players from the Kuala Lumpur team," he said. "We will only miss left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, the leading bowler at the fCC Trophy with 16 wickets, who is down with an ankle injury."

Greenidge said, 'They need to play more against the best teams to handle the pressure," he said. "Moreover, the fielding is not yet in the top bracket."

"I don't think talent and enthusiasm are enough to carry the team, but I hope we will be able to spring a few surprises. Qualifying for the World Cup was a good start."

bound local train from Sylhet was forced to halt at Harashpur at 6:15 am. Dhaka-bound Mahanagar-Urmi from Chittagong remained stranded for hours at

Some 20 passengers and 10 transport workers were injured when IOJ and Jamaat activists attacked vehicles at Savar and Manikganj on Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Our Narayanganj corre-spondent reported that at least 20 people were injured, seven of them seriously, when pro-hartal activists clashed with employees of four restaurants and damaged those at Tanbazar in the town at about 10 am.

According to police, some of the pickets were chased into the nearby brothel. Inmates of the brothel then chased the pickets and detained some of them. Later, the pickets, in larger number, stormed into the brothel and rescued all their fellow activists but one. The pickets then informed the OC of Narayanganj thana who went to the brothel with his force and rescued the activist.

At least six persons were inured as the inmates of the brothel came out with sharp weapons and chased the activists.

Flood

From page 1 quarters and the government godowns throughout the day. The flood situation in Kush-

Sirajganj, Pabna Gaibandha, Rangpur, Rajbari, Kurigram and Faridpur districts deteriorated while it remained static in Feni, Comilla Munshiganj and Jamalpur. More areas in Daulatpur Bherama, Mirpur and Ku-

markhali thana of Kushtia were inundated yesterday further worsening the flood situation in the district and keeping the affected people marooned. Ferry services in the Bherama-Pakshey ghat were

disrupted as the ghat was being relocated frequently due to continuous rise of water level in the river Padma. In Sirajganj district, fresh areas in Shahjadpur, Chowhali and Tarash thanas were inun-

Jamuna, Gumani and Baral, The flood also left some 10,000 people of 50 villages in the three thanas marooned. Standing crops on about 10,000 acres of lands were also inun-

dated by the swelling of rivers

Manpower export From page 1

sources said.

The Home Ministry team learnt of these racketeers after several weeks of investigation both in Bangladesh and Malaysia. The team comprising three

officials from the Home Ministry, Criminal Investigation Department and Special Branch visited Malaysia from June 12 to 23. During the visit, they talked

to the trapped Bangladeshis in Malaysia, officials at the Bangladesh embassy there and officials concerned of that country.

The team is expected to submit its report within a short

Child lifters

immediately. A group of local people caught the women when they were passing by Ananda Cinema Hall area at Farmgate with the baby at about 3 pm. Later, police arrested the two and rescued the baby who was under treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the Dhaka Medical Col-

lege Hospital till last night. However, police could not confirm whether the women were child lifters.

Shima From page 1

people are losing their confidence in law and in some places, they are taking law into their own hands creating dan-

gerous situation. The BNP secretary general accused the government of bringing back the horror days of the 1972-75 period by putting the country in such unlawful

and anarchic situation. He demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

CHT talks

From page 1

sues the PCJSS raised persisted The new issues included repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees under the aegis of the UNHCR and the ICRC and guarantees for continuity of the accord when it is signed. It raised the issues in an ef-

fort to wrest more concessions from the NCCHT reportedly on the structure and authority of the proposed regional council for CHT, to be headed by a tribal chairman. But disagreement dogged the talks on the authority of the

chairman over the administrative representative for the region or having a deputy chairman from the settlers, the sources said The talks are likely to re-

sume this morning.







Director General of UNESCO Frederico Mayor called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at

made garment factories.

Come and invest in

direct investment to achieve rapid economic growth, the Prime Minister said, highlighting the incentives for foreign investors She said the government is strongly committed to pursuing

the private sectors.

From page 1 some of these companies had

opened letters of credit (LCs)

even in December last year.

long after the ban came into ef-Azmal Hossain, President of PAB said some companies had imported the SP last year immediately after the ban under prior LC. He maintained that it is being marketed as per the guidelines of Pesticide Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)

and the Ministry of Agriculture. specifically for non-rice crops. When asked about the faulty phrasing of the ban orden a top official of the Commerce Ministry said, the gazette notification bans all pesticides of SP group as identified under the HS codes, and if anyone imports it. it is illegal. The HS codes clearly identifies the brand

names of the group that has been meant to be banned. He said, on recommendation of the Health Ministry, the ban has been lifted from only one pesticide brand - delthamethrin - for its use in the public

health sector to fight malaria.

He further said if there was

any confusion, customs officials should have contacted the ministry for clarification. But customs officials said the notification is faulty and the pesticide is passing through

their fingers unabated. An official of the Agriculture Ministry wrote to the Secretary. Ministry of Commerce, on June 6 last year that Heptaclore-40W and SP should be taken off the ban list of the Import Policy Order, 1995-97.

The official said he made the request following recommendations by the PTAC. The PTAC in its meeting on June 1, 1996 observed, "As there are established data on adverse impact on fish at home and abroad, and there are alterna-

trol pests in rice crops, the use of SP is temporarily suspended for the crop. The PTAC recommended that the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) at Chandpur should carry out further 'broad-based research' on the toxicity of SP. On the basis of the findings, if necessary, further decisions

would be taken to permit use of

the pesticide on rice crop, it

tive pesticides available to con-

them, an ISPR press release Banned pesticides said. But on other crops, SP type pesticide would continue to be used as per approval of the

PTAC. Within 90 days of this

decision, the companies mar-

keting the SP on their own ini-

tiative would make necessary

correction to change level from

the Plant Protection Wing (PPW), the PTAC recommendation said. But since the decision was taken, there has been very little progress in research at the FRI

due to fund constraints, according to sources. Some of the companies marketing the pesticide did not change labels of SP products to advise farmers not to use it on

the Commerce Ministry had misunderstood the decision and slapped a total ban on the pesti-However, environmentalists are now questioning the capabilities of the authorities concerned in monitoring and controlling import of toxic sub-

But, Agriculture Ministry

and pesticide companies say

stances which can be highly dangerous for health. "SP may not be harmful for use in non-rice crops," Dr Mohiuddin Farooque. Secretary General of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA) said. "It is a gross offence to take advantage of a gap in the law. It also violates the constitution protecting the land, soil and fish. But the violation of the ban order shows that the government's supervisory and monitoring mecha-

for the public," he said. During a visit to Tongi fertiliser market by these correspondents yesterday, it was found that a number of brand names under SP group were freely available in the market. But they did not have any advice, informing the users not to use for tackling the pests on

nism is poor. This is worrisome

An executive of a pesticide company admitted that they had done a 'moral crime' by importing the SP.

"But according to the gazette notification, we can not be charged," said the official talking on condition of anonymity. "There is no pesticide registered

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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HAMBURG (Germany), July 15: UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite here last night, reports BSS. During the discussion,

UNESCO gives

\$3 lakh to help

eradicate

illiteracy

Mayor assured the Prime Minister of all kinds of cooperation from UNESCO and other international agencies to implement Bangladesh government's pledge to eradicate illiteracy within the next ten years.

He also sanctioned a special

grant of three lakh US dollars

to assist Bangladesh efforts in

this regard. Highlighting the programmes and policies in education sector, the Prime Minister said her government considers spread of education as the main tool for national development. Besides highest allocation

made in the national budget for

education sector, her govern-

ment had mobilised all re-

sources and might for removing

illiteracy within the stipulated time, she said. BNP demands

From page 1 war Hossain, Anwar Hossain, Ashik, Kamal, Abdul Quddus, Rashed, Giasuddin Harun, Hafez Nazir Ahmed, Shamsuzzoha, Jashim, Monir, Shah Alam Faruque, Khokon and

He warned that if the de-

From page 1 jheel police cordoned off the area and tried round up the gang members. But seeing the policemen, the

The body was sent to the

From page 1 fall in the flow of water to

It is also expected to deliber-

constructed barrages on the

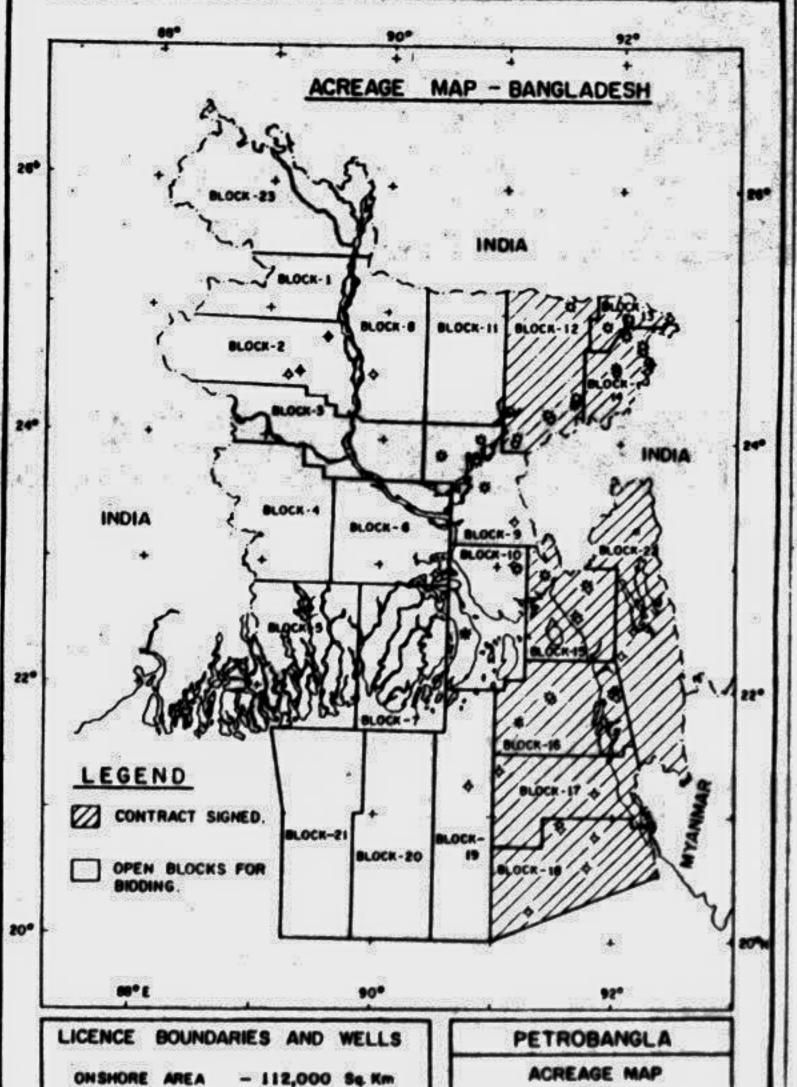
from March 10 to 12.

15 blocks: 21 cos submit proposals An evaluation committee

ered the Titas gasfield in 1956. has been formed with a World Bank recommended US consultant, Arther Anderson, to review the proposals submitted by the foreign companies. Members of this committee include two officials from Petrobangla, one from the Ministry of Energy, an expert from BUET and a Professor from the Depart-

ment of Geology, Dhaka University. The evaluation process is expected to be completed within August 16. After evaluation, a negotiation process for each company or joint venture for individual blocks will begin and all final agreements will be

signed by December 15 next.



OFFSHORE AREA - 63,000 Sq. Km

TOTAL - 175,000 Sq. Km