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could not benefit the host

Bangladesh has over 25 years of

experience in oil and gas explo-

ration and also has experience

of signing PSCs in the past.
"Now we are about to sign

several PSCs. But before that,

we should evaluate our old con-

tracts and see the experience of

other countries to ensure

maximum benefit for our-

BAPEX was "deliberately

pushed behind the mainstream

exploration scenario." Usually,

the government presents "an

excuse that there are not enough

funds to allow explorations by

BAPEX has discovered 10 gas-

fields but it has not been given

any gasfield to own and operate

on commercial basis. BAPEX discovers a field and then, tra-

ditionally, the field is given to

another government agency to

run it. But if you give BAPEX its

own gasfield to operate, it will

generate its own funds for ex-

since the present PSCs were not

profitable for the country, these

should be cancelled and revised

Chopper carrying

PM to Satkhira

forced to land

at Jessore

copter carrying Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina from the capital

yesterday morning was forced

to divert its course and land at

Jessore Airport after being

caught in rough weather, re-

Hasan and Flight Lieutenant

Mustafiz who piloted MI-17, the

prime minister's flag carrier of

Bangladesh Air Force, manoeu-

vred the situation despite dense

ing members of the prime min-

ister's entourage also faced the

similar situation and Wing

Commander Shafique and

Squadron Leader Sayem who

were in the cockpit also faced

KCC mayor

From Page 1

Referring to the one-member

judicial probe body to investi-

gate the July 27 Baburabad killing in Satkhira, he said it

would have been better if a High

Court judge would have been as-

proper treatment for the in-

jured in the firing, compensa-

tion for the families of those

killed and injured. He urged the

government to accept the 8-

point demand made by the All

Party Action Committee

(APAC) formed after the

rehabilitation of landless peo-

ple in the khas lands, trial and

punishment of the DC and the SP of Satkhira who were

blamed for the killing and action against the local touts who launched attacks on the land-

less people to grab the arable

lands for cultivating shrimps.

The press conference was also attended by Convenor of

Khulna district BNP Syed

Ishaq, Khulna city BNP presi-dent Nurul Islam, Satkhira

district BNP Convenor M Mon-

sur Ali and Debhata BNP presi-

Food shortage

From Page 1

ter Motia Chowdhury, Water

Resources Minister Abdur Raz-

zak and senior government of-

ficials were also present at the

Dhaka said they are willing to

come forward to tackle the

emergency situation, but much

of the impact would depend on

the distribution capacity of the

"Logistics could be a big problem," said the chief of a

donor organisation. "But my

organisation is ready to stop

some of the programmes which would anyway be delayed be-cause of the flood and divert the

government was confident that

it would be able to tackle the

flood situation without any

donor aid. However, the rain in the last few days and the

weather forecast have made the

government shaky and it has

opted to appeal to the donors for

possibility when we might not

be able to cope with the situa-

tion alone," said a government

official who was also present at

yesterday's briefing with

"We are now looking at a

According to sources, the

money to flood mitigation."

Meanwhile, donor sources in

Food and Agriculture Minis-

dent Surat Ali.

government.

donors.

The APAC demands include

Baburabad killing.

The mayor also demanded

signed to probe the killing.

the situation very boldly.

Rahman said.

The other helicopter carry-

Wing Commander Mahbub

The Satkhira-bound heli-

to make those profitable.

Abdullah Sarker said that

He went on, "Till date,

BAPEX. This is wrong."

Rafidul Islam Khan said

Dr Kamal noted that

countries.

selves," he said.

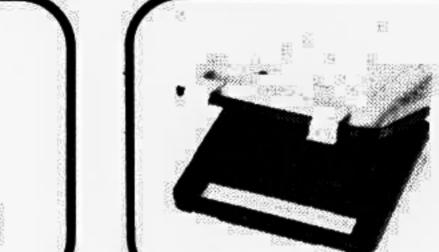
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Politicians, experts concerned

# 'PSCs on oil, gas do not uphold nat'l interest'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a National Convention on Bangladesh's Oil and Gas Resources and National Interest in the city yesterday expressed concern at the way the government was handling the energy sector and called for a national consensus on utilisation of oil and gas.

A number of politicians and experts who participated in the convention urged the government to stop awarding of different blocks to different foreign companies under the Second Round Block Bidding for oil and gas exploration as it would be 'disastrous' for the economy.

The convention organised by 11 left-leaning political parties observed that the existing production sharing contracts (PSCs) did not uphold national interest. And the second round block bidding was conducted in an opaque manner and it was against the interest of the na-

The convention was participated by Dr Kamal Hossain of Gana Forum who was also the country's first energy minister, economist Dr M A Akash President of Bangladesh Geological Society Rafidul Islam Khan, left front leaders Rashed Khan Menon, Abdullah Sarker, Golam Kuddus, Nurul Islam Amena Hasan, Ajay Roy and

The speakers felt that while the present government was not upholding national interest in the oil and gas sector, the main opposition party was not also raising its voice to protect national interest.

"Therefore, it is now time for the people to come forward to protect their interest," said one speaker.

Bangladesh's exploration agency BAPEX was deliberately being destroyed, the speakers alleged and demanded that BAPEX be immediately strengthened and given at least three of the best blocks.

They asserted that the government should extract gas according to the projected future needs and should not allow wholesale extraction of gas. which the country would not be able to consume.

The speakers expressed concern at the 'profitability of the existing and model PSCs' for Bangladesh.

Dr Akash said that Malaysia's PSCs ensure 60 to 70

গাছ–গাছালিতে ভরা

ঘরবাড়ি সুরক্ষিত

উপকূলীয় অঞ্চলের অধিবাসী হলে সবচে' বেশি প্রয়োজন

আপনার নিরাপদ আশ্রয় ... মাথা গুঁজার ঠাঁই ... একটি

ঠিকানা ... ঘরবাড়ি ... যেখানে বসবাস করতে পারবেন

পরিকল্পিতভাবে গাছ লাগিয়ে সুরক্ষিত করুন আপনার

বসতবাড়ি ... সৃষ্টি করুন এক সবুজ আবরণীর ... যাতে

করে ঝড়–ঝাপটা ও জলোচ্ছাস খুব বেশি একটা ক্ষতি না

যেখানে গাছ লাগালে ফলন হবে বেশি ... উন্নত হবে

বাড়ির পরিবেশ ... ঠিক সেখানেই লাগান গাছ ... সাথে চাষ

করুন ফলগাছ এবং শাক-সবজির ... নানা ধরনের উপকার

বড় হয়ে দেবে গাছ আপনাকে জানমালের নিরাপতা,

খাদ্য, ফল, পতখাদ্য, জ্বালানী ... আরো কত কি! বাড়তি

আয় হবে আপনার অতিরিক্ত কাঠ, ফলফলাদি ও শাক–সবজি

বিক্রয় করে। ধীরে ধীরে উন্নতি ঘটবে আপনার আর্থিক

লাগালে গাছ প্রয়োজন হয় না পানি সেচের। তবে গাছ

লাগানো যেতে পারে বসতবাড়িতে সারা বছরই ... গাছ

লাগানোর ব্যাপারে আপনার ধারে–কাছের বন বিভাগের

গাছ লাগানোর উপযুক্ত সময় বর্ষা মৌসুম। এ সময়

পরিবার-পরিজন নিয়ে আপনি নিরাপদে।

করতে পারে আপনার ও বসতবাড়ির।

ভোগ করবেন আপনি এতে করে।

per cent share of gas for itself, Indonesian PSCs ensure 45 per cent to 70 per cent. In contrast, Bangladesh's PSCs ensure between 30 and 50 per cent gas for

itself. "The major portion goes to the gasfield developers." He observed that Malaysians have developed their own exploration agency — Petronas since 1974 by including it as a 15 per cent carried interest partner with all companies signing a PSC. Now Petronas has become so big that it operates in 13 other countries.

"In contrast, BAPEX was virtually established before Petronas. It has got the experience and expertise. Yet, the present PSC policy of the government is killing this organisation," Dr Akash said

Dr Kamal Hossain said, "The people have a right to know what is going on in the oil and gas sectors. They need to know whether the contracts the government has signed or will be signing protect the interest of the country.

PSCs, he recalled, were introduced in the mid-sixties first in Indonesia in order to ensure more benefit for the host countries. Earlier different countries opened doors to oil companies for a negligible rental and as a result oil and gas exploration

#### Girl raped

From Page 1

ter at a flood centre in Maddhya Badda along with her family, was going to a tailoring shop in the area at about 6 pm Wednesday, police referring to the case

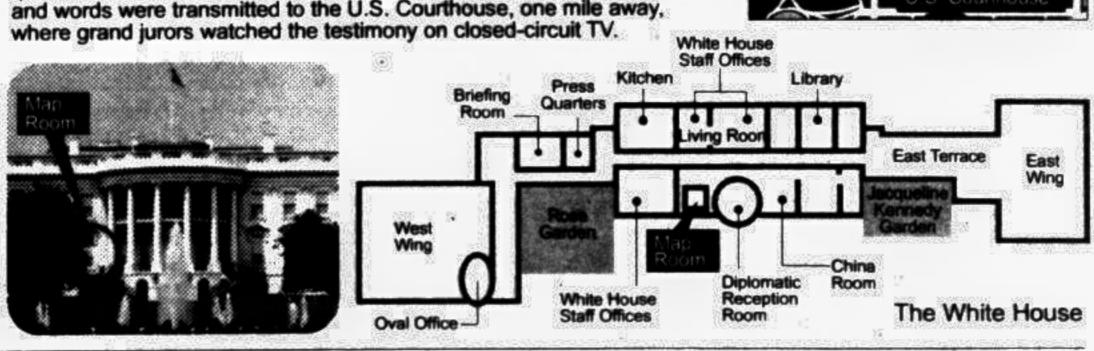
On her way to the shop, she met her cousin Shahid who told the girl that her mother was at their house and had asked him to take her (the victim) to their house.

Shamim and three other unidentified young men joined Shahid as soon as Shahid and the victim reached near an under-construction building Then the five dragged her inside the building and raped her one after another, police added.

The rapists released the girl at about 1 am Thursday after warning her at gunpoint against disclosing the incident

Clinton testimony

and words were transmitted to the U.S. Courthouse, one mile away,



Sandwich maker

President Clinton testified from the Map Room in the White House. Prosecutors were expected to do most of the questioning, but jurors could pass questions to the president. underground fiber optic cable Clinton attorneys: David Kendall Nicole Seligman Charles Ruff

## Clinton still going strong

Times survey taken just after the speech saying they were satisfied with the president's the investigation should end.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll found Clinton's favourable rating plunged from 60 per cent to 40 per cent and a 46 plurality said they did not believe Clinton had told the whole truth in testifying. But 72 per cent said the country would be better off

turned a mixed verdict of con-

demnation and satisfaction. "Closed chapter," one said. Another called him 'an incurable teen-ager." A third reflected

In bars and living rooms,

#### Transport strike in Rajshahi continues

RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: All kinds of transport services to and from Rajshahi remained suspended for the second consecutive day today following Monday's attack on general secretary of Rajshahi District Motor Sramik Union by activists

The union leaders today announced that they would observe transport strike for an indefinite period until their three-point demand was met.

The angry members of the union today damaged eleven motor vehicles at different points in the city. Official and private vehicles also remained off the roads today fearing attacks. Barricades have also been put up at different points.

stores and college study lounges, they struggled to sort out this lurid twist in American politics and seemed just as split as before: Those who disliked Clinton still disliked him, and those who had faith before expressed faith anew.

He's an incurable teen-ager. but probably one of the most capable presidents we've ever had," said Allen Balbier, a registered democrat drinking at the Knickerbocker, a bar in New York City's borough of Manhatexhausted-looking

Clinton acknowledged his inappropriate contact with Lewinsky and told of answering "questions no American citizen would ever want to answer."

And, it seemed, Americans

#### BNP whips

From Page 1

dence vesterday evening. Delwar said he received resignation letters of some of the party lawmakers and added that none of the whips gave him any such letters till vesterday.

me anything on getting such letters", he said after meeting Begum Zia. Former speaker and BNP MP from Khulna Shaikh Razzak Ali told The Daily Star last night he was not aware of eight of the party lawmakers' depositing resignation letters. "I'm now sick and I will consider giving my resignation let-ters after I get well," he said.

after I get those of two others,"

Anwar, told The Daily Star that none contacted him nor he contacted any one in the party on the issue of depositing resignation letter. "I'm now totally busy serving the flood-affected people of my constituency," he

agreed. While the mess was an unprecedented political scandal for Washington, for Americans it was also a torturous domestic ordeal — one that many could identify with and, it seemed, one that many were ready to "He admitted enough to sat-

Grand jury room

isfy the American people. I hope it's done," said Marti Peterson, a Republican who owns a marketing firm in Beaverton. Oregon. "I respect him more because he addressed the American public and said now it's done. Let's get to work and build America.

"Presidents aren't gods. They are normal human beings," said Lorie Straugh-Grossman, 42, of Metuchen, New Jersey. "I think perhaps it's unrealistic to expect that he will be a role model for my children. He is an extremely capable and intelligent president. That's what is impor-

But talk kept returning to one thing: lying "He was like a little kid saying. I took the cookies out of the

cookie jar, now let's just change the subject," said Allison LePock, 35, of Chesapeake, Vir-At a Hooters restaurant in

Columbus, Ohio, Clinton's speech was greeted by laughter, jeers and some booing. One person screamed, "Bill, you're a "He lied." said Sean Stennett

27, a Clinton supporter. "He disrespected his wife, child and country. If he knew he did wrong, he should have admitted it sooner."

#### UP chairman

From Page 1

The mob has gheraoed the TNO office and kept all officials and employees under confinement. They are not being allowed to go out.

DIG, Khulna Range, Lutful Huq. Deputy Commissioner Iftekharuddin and the Police Super Khan Akramuzzaman are already staying there requesting the angry mob to hand over the dead body.

Five platoons of riot police have been deployed in the area.

#### Dhaka submits draft resolution to ECOSOC

Bangladesh has submitted a draft resolution on "International decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world (2001-2010)" to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, reports BSS. Bangladesh on behalf of the

54 co-sponsoring countries in-

troduced the resolution at the

ECOSOC session in New York

on July 23. The draft resolution

was adopted by consersus at the ECOSOC on July 28, 1998. The resolution recommends to the next session of the General Assembly that the period from the year 2001 to 2010 be proclaimed as the international decade for a culture of

peace and non-violence for the children of the world. Khaleda

#### From Page 1

pompous functions were held at the cost of public money when a vast number of people are passing their days without food. Quoting press reports she estimated that five to ten crore taka were spent for the mourn-

ing. The money should have been diverted to the hungry people who were rendered destitute by the flood, she said. Begum Zia expressed grave

concern at the deterioration of law and order. A sense of insecurity pervaded in the society. Citing an example she said a UP chairman was shot inside the office of TNO in Khulna yesterday.

#### Fish export From Page 1

The EU without verifying the factories allowed them to export their products to its member countries on the basis of the government list from July 10. The EU imposed temporary

ban on import of fish and fish products from Bangladesh on August '97 as the quality of fish products was not acceptable to Bangladesh government sent

a list of six factories to the EU after upgrading their standard on November 13, 1997 and the EU, after verification, gave permission to the six factories to export fish and fish products.

#### No US embassy plan to evacuate staff from Dhaka

A US embassy spokesman yesterday said they have no plan to evacuate any embassy staff from Bangladesh at this time following development in Pakistan.

Non-essential staff and their relatives departed from Pakistan yesterday under the US government's order after the arrest on August 7 of a suspect in Pakistan in the recent bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The arrested man identified as Howaida Sadik was immediately handed over to Kenyan authorities in Nairobi.

The United States also warned Americans against travel to Pakistan citing "a very serious threat" to US facilities and citizens.

When asked to comment on the development, the US embassy spokesman told UNB that they are tightening local security arrangement as part of a general worldwide effort taken in response to the bombing in Kenya and Tanzania

He said the embassy is getting support from the relevant authorities in Bangladesh in its security efforts.

#### Flood From Page 1

while all the rivers in the

south-eastern hill basin receded except the Feni river at Ramgarh. The rivers flowing above the

danger level are: Brahmaputra at Chilmari, Jamuna at Bahadurabad. Sirajganj and Aricha, Buriganga at Dhaka, Shitalakhya at Narayangani Turag at Mirpur and Tongi, Kaliganga at Taraghat, Dharla at Kurigram, Padma at Pankha, Goalunda and Bhagyakul, Mahandanda at Chapainawabganj. Surma at Kanaighat and Sunamganj, Kushiyara at Amalshid and Sheola, Shomeswari at Durgapur, Meghna at Bhairab Bazar and Halda at Narayanhat. Meanwhile, due to active

monsoon light to moderately heavy rainfall at most places with heavy fall at one or two places over the country was recorded in last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday.



বাংলা একাডেমী

## বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলা একাডেমীর সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বালো একাডেমীর একবিশেতিতম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ৪ পৌষ ১৪০৫/১৮ ডিসেম্বর ১৯৯৮ তারিখ শুক্রবার অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। যে সকল সদস্যের চাঁদা বাকি আছে একাডেমীর সদস্যবিধি ৫(ক) ও (খ) ধারা

অনুযায়ী তাঁদের ১৫ আশ্বিন ১৪০৫/৩০ সেন্টেম্বর ১৯৯৮ তারিখ বুধবারের মধ্যে চাঁদা পরিশোধ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

যাদের ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন হয়েছে, তাঁদের পরিবর্তিত ঠিকানা লিখিতভাবে জানানোর জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

DFP-17474-13/8

আবদুল হান্নান ঠাকুর উপপরিচালক পরিষদ উপবিভাগ বাংলা একাডেমী ঢাকা ১০০০

## PM visits Satkhira

From Page beloved sister Jayeda and no

wealth can compensate the loss." Still, she said, the families of Jayeda and other injured persons would be looked into. She announced a donation of Taka one lakh for the family of Jayeda and assured medical treatment and financial help for the injured people.

The Prime Minister also declared that the khas land in the disputed area excepting real 'jalmahal' (water-body) would be distributed among the genuine landless people. Besides, she said, the poor with abject poverty would be given readymade houses under her government's 'Ashrayan Prokalpa.' While assuring that justice

would be ensured for the sufferers of the area, the prime minister warned that nobody would be allowed to derive political benefit and any attempt to divert the incident towards other directions to attain vested interest would be strictly dealt

Held at Gazirhat Debi Shaharer Math at Parulia village in Debhata, some 21 km off Satkhira, the rally was presided over by thana Awami League president Advocate Golam Mostafa The Prime Minister said

that her government had taken steps to bring the persons responsible for Baburabad incident to book. She said that a judicial inquiry into the incident had been ordered. The deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police of Satkhira were already transferred. Besides, she said, others in the administration, if found guilty, would be taken to task.

The Prime Minister categorically said that anybody of her party found involved in the

tragic incident would also face due action. The Prime Minister called upon all not to take law into their own hands.

Going back to the origin of the dispute over the land ownership of Baburabad, the Prime Minister said that a High Court verdict in 1983 and subsequent leasing of the land by BNP government in 1993 made the situ-

ation complicated.

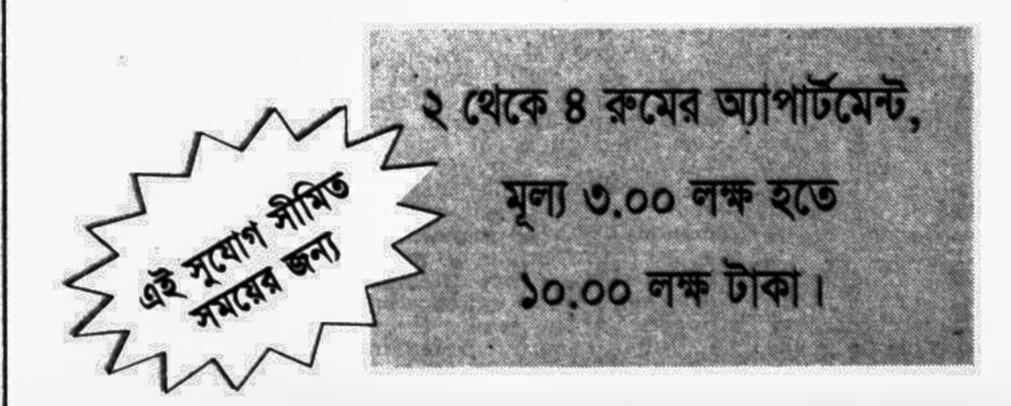
Bitterly criticising those who were out to stir up the Baburabad incident for political motive, the Prime Minister called upon them not to do politics with the miseries of the people. In this connection she referred to Rubel murder case in the capital and said that within two hours of the incident the Leader of the Opposition made a untrue claim that the victim . was an activist of a front organisation of her party. Sheikh Hasina also bitterly condemned the Ukhia (Cox's Bazar) incident of August 15 in which two activists of BNP's Chhatra Dal tried to kill poor people by mix-ing poison with the foods being prepared by Awami League to feed the destitute on the National Mourning Day.

The Prime Minister, while noticing that a woman who was injured on the July 27 incident was among the audience, immediately ordered to bring her to the dais. The Prime Minister keenly saw the injuries and consoled her.

She also gave her some financial help.

# সীমিত আয় সম্পন্ন মানুষের স্বপ্ন বাস্তবায়নে ইষ্টার্ব হাউজিং

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## পরিকল্পিতভাবে গাছ লাগান বসতবাড়িতে

উপকূলীয় সবুজ বেষ্টনী প্রকল্প DFP-17482-13/8

কর্মকর্তার পরামর্শ ও সাহায্য নিন।

G-1866

অবস্থার

বন বিভাগ, ঢাকা

#### Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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History was made Monday when President Bill Clinton testified before a grand jury about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. He was questioned in front of a video camera in the White House and his image

The president's image and words

phone line to grand jury The Map Room

From Page

statement and 40 per cent not satisfied. About 60 per cent said the matter should now be dropped. Sixty-nine per cent of those in an ABC News poll said

if he stays in office. Embarrassed but engrossed by an extraordinary piece of political theater, Americans watched their president bare his most personal secrets Monday night and promptly re-

the sentiments of many: "He

From Our Correspondent

of a rival group.

er's Minto Road official resi-

"Even party chief did not tell

Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, a BNP whip, told this correspondent he was assigned to collect resignation letters of five party MP from Barisal and till last night, he had got three such letters, including his own. "I'll deposit all the five letters

he said. Another BNP lawmaker, MK