

The World On Time

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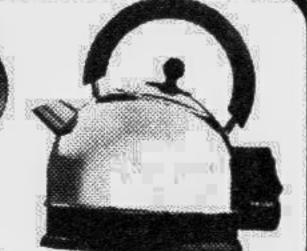
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## Bapex tries to chart new agenda

BAPEX, the country's lone oil and gas exploration unit un-der Prtrobangla, is pursuing a gasfield development project allocation". that is expected to pave the way

for its becoming a dynamic and self-financing company.

The so-far-ignored BAPEX has proposed that it should be allowed to drill an appraisal well in Fenchuganj gasfield to assess the reserve, geological structure and other related matters and extract gas from the

field discovered by it in 1985. The proposal says BAPEX will supply 55 to 60 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcfd) to the National Grid from 2002. This will enable it to earn enough money to run smallscale programmes if it is allowed to retain the sale proceeds, sources said.

The proposal was made to the Energy Ministry three months back and is awaiting

included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for fiscal 1999-2000 with a "token

BAPEX now operates with Petrobangla's budgetary allocations which cover only admin-istrative costs but no oil and gas related activities. BAPEX has long been suggesting that it should be allowed to operate as an exploration and production entity so that it can earn from sale of gas discovered by it.

Petrobangla, as a practice, takes away gas fields discovered by BAPEX and gives those to gas production companies like Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd (BGFCL). Under this system, BAPEX discovered Salda-1 well early last year. But earnings from sale of gas are go-ing to BGFCL, as Petrobangla handed over the gas field to

BAPEX also sent a proposal to change its status to an explo-The project has already been ration and production (E&P)

By Sharier Khan

company from an exploration company. The proposal is also awaiting the ministry's clear-

The Fenchuganj gas field is the only gas field against which BAPEX has almost completely paid up all its dues. The Fenchuganj gas field

was discovered at Baramchal area under Kulaura thana of Moulavibazar district by the exploration wing of Petrobangla. Petrobangla's exploration wing was named BAPEX, it inherited the gas field and other assets and liabilities. Now there is no liability against the gas field.

BAPEX will purchase necessary equipment for development of the well and build roads, bridges and other infrastructure in the area.

The Petrobangla Board has approved the project along with a budget of Tk 109 crore. Of the budget, Tk 38.9 crore will be provided by the government

and Tk 71 crore by donors. The project implementation period is July 1999 to June 2002. But no move has so far been taken to contact donors, the sources

Petrobangla had long been . trying to "resist" BAPEX's conversion to an E&P company on the ground that there were legal bars and a new law was needed for this purpose, the sources said. Besides, it argued that the existing gas production com-panies like BGFCL and SGFCL would become weaker and their

expansion would be stopped.

However, these arguments were rejected as BAPEX's Memorandum of Article has clauses allowing it to operate as an E&P company, BAPEX only needs to inform the Joint Stock of Registrar when it starts functioning as an E&P company. A compet-itive environment in gas pro-duction will improve the overall performance in the sector, they said.

Meanwhile. Bakhrabad Gas System Ltd is proposing to sell its Gas Processing Plant as gas production has gone down to 40 mmcfd now from 90 mmcfd a couple of years ago. BAPEX could buy the 'ready plant' for the Fenchuganj project at a much lower cost which would reduce the project cost and time. the sources said.

Besides the Fenchugani project, BAPEX is also pursing the Tk. 52 crore Srikail Oil and Gas Exploration Project in Block 9 and an "Operation Capability Strengthening Project" to develop its efficiency. Both these projects are approved by Petrobangla and are now awaiting the ministry's clearance.

Srikail is said to be a very prospective project as it is sur-rounded by Titas, Salda, Kashempur and Lalmai geologi-cal gas structures. BAPEX will drill up to 3500 meters there. This project has also been included in the 1999-2000 ADP.



Writing on the face Gloomy faces of women driven out of their city slums who joined a rally organised by a Left outfit yesterday. -Star photo: A K M Mohsin

Eyewash exercises

JU investigators' reports remain classified under dust

#### rhage at the district general hospital at 5:30 am today. He was 65, reports UNB, He was admitted to the hos-pital at 10 am on Wednesday with a complaint of chest pain and then his condition deteriorated sharply, doctors said. He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of friends and admirers. Born in January 8, 1935, at Chardubail in Faridpur dis-trict, Mosharraf obtained his BA degree from Karatia Shadat College, Tangail and LLB from Dhaka University. He started his career as a lawyer.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks to editors of national dailies and news agencies at the International Conference Centre yesterday. -PID photo

# murders

By Court Correspondent Nine people including three former army personnel were chargesheeted in the case in BTV officials in 1975.

The chargesheet accused are Abul Kashem Bagoja, Abul Kashem, Abdul Awal Sarker, Lutfor Rahman Talukder, Syed Ainul Kabir, Ainuzzaman, Lt (Rtd) Altaf Hossain, KAM Zakaria Haider and Sajahan Sir-

Seven of them were arrested on November 5 last year. Two others - Kazi Zakaria and Abdul Kashem — are absconding.

case ASP Fazlul Karim of CID invoked sections 364, 302, 201 and 34 of the Penal Code. During the investigation,

The CID submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yes-Investigating officer of the

CID recorded judicial statements of Havildar Abul Bashar and Havildar Masud Rana un-

der Section 164 of the Code of

Criminal Procedure.

# Chargesheet on 1975 BTV Raw deal for patients

Doctors and diagnostic centres infected by greed

By Naimul Haq

connection with killing of four patients to diagnostic centres patients to our laboratory for for tests without 'envelopes'. diagnostic tests. This is a usual The 'envelopes' which conpractice. Without doctors' suptain 'fees' (share of profit made port you simply can not think by the centres) reach the doctors of setting up business in this at the end of every month. Disector. You have to count them agnostic centres charge 20 - 60 as your partners or business

per cent more from patients to will fail miserably." pay the doctors' commission. Humayun Q Choudhury of These were revealed to The Plasma Plus, a non-profit re-Daily Star by owners and mansearch laboratory said, "When agers of at least 10 established we opened our laboratory we diagnostic centres in the city approached doctors for referduring an investigation. ring patients mainly for re-Most of the diagnostic censearch, and we got plenty.

tres in the city pay "After about six months, the 'commission' to their doctors. doctors who referred patients "Our business survives only asked for 'envelops'. We refused. because we pay doctors for send-They stopped sending patients ing patients. If we stop sending and started criticising that we them 'envelops', we will not get do not maintain quality", he patients", owner of a reputed di-

agnostic laboratory at Dhan-One of the directors of the mondi told this correspondent newly established Central Hoson condition of anonymity. pital said, "We are looking for He said, "When we started duty doctors at higher salary. business four years ago, we had Surprisingly, only a few reto contact several doctors for sponded. Others who came de-

Most doctors refuse to refer assurance that they would refer manded that they should be allowed to continue private practice during evening hours, on which we have restriction."

A manager of a reputed diagnostic centre said, "We have to pay at least 50 per cent of our profit to 'our partners' (doctors who refer patients) every month and we maintain separate accounts on their fees.

During visits to Medinova Medical Service Ltd, Lab Aid Ltd, Popular Diagnostic Centre, Modern Diagnostic Centre, Compath Ltd at Dhanmondi and Elephant Road, most of the patients who were waiting in the lounges said they were referred to the respective diagnostic centres by doctors.

A number of doctors, who requested anonymity, admitted that they regularly receive 'envelops'. "There is nothing wrong in it. We do not send patients to places where patients are cheated. All we are doing is See page 11 Col 8

Mosharraf Hossain of the Jatiya Sangsad for two consecutive terms in 1991 and (Sadarpur-Charbhadrashan)

Mosharraf was the convenor

He was also chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries and Livestock of the 7th Parliament.

on the probe body reports. Over Parliamentary Standing Committees on Petition and Ministries of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Agriculture, Family Planning, Fisheries and Livestock, Water Resources in their meetings to-See page 11 Col 4

He was elected member of the

then East Pakistan Provincial Assembly in 1970 and Member 1996 from Faridpur-4 constituency.

and president of Faridpur district Awami League and district Bar Association.

the last few years, a number of probe bodies were formed to investigate serious incidents like killings, terrorism, beating of teachers and students, and question leakage. In most cases, probe body reports were neither published nor any action was taken accordingly. No followup was also reported after the

> In 1996, JU Syndicate formed a high-power committee

hardly see the light of day. If

any report is prepared and

submitted to the authorities, it

is never published and action is

During the last one year end-

And barely there is any in-

stance of any follow-up based

hardly taken.

their reports.

for five months.

vice-chancellors.

Probe body reports at Ja- with then dean of Arts' Faculty in 1995 also did not function. hangirnagar University (JU) Prof. Khaliquzzaman Elias as The ICS activist was killed alits chief to investigate terrorist activities and to suggest action to contain erosion of law and order on the campus. The committee had only two meetings but it stopped functioning later allegedly after interference

By Gobinda Bar

ing August 1999, as many as 17 probe bodies were formed by the from the university authorities. university Syndicate but only When contacted, Prof Elias said formation of the committee was just an eyewash. "I was not officially communicated and I came to know about the

three have so far submitted Of the total, nine committees have already spent nine months without producing any committee through newspareports. Another couple of pers," he said. committees have been working

A three member probe body was formed to investigate the killing of pro-Awami League Chhatra League leader Ananda Kumar Ghosh on November 3, 1997. No action was taken after the committee submitted its report to the vice-chancellor last year. The report detailed the intra-party rivalry of the BCL, identified the killers and suggested action against them. The report is now lying with

the VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed and it was not even produced bereports were submitted to the fore the Syndicate as per rules. Another probe body for investigating murder of an alleged

Islami Chhatra Shibir activist

legedly by pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists in Bhasani Hall. Authorities failed to take

any action against a teacher following an inquiry committee report that found him responsible of leaking questions of written test for admission into first year honours' classes in 1997. A university official said action could not be taken as the teacher in question filed a writ petition with the High Court protesting the university proceedings against him. Sources said that the university authorities did not follow up the case as per requirement since the teacher concerned is backed by an influential lobby in the university and the key administrators are dependent on the lobby for votes in different elections.

Another probe body formed to inquire into the attack on teachers on July 29, 1993, also failed to produce any report. The then VC Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed resigned after a number of teachers were assaulted by

See page 11 Col 3

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### BSF abducts 4 BDR men

SYLHET, Aug 19: Four BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) personnel were abducted by the Indian BSF (Border Security Forces) following a two-hour gunbattle near Saropar border outpost in Beanibazar thana today. The BDR proposed a flag meeting with the BSF but there was no response, till filing of this report at 8pm, a BDR official informed over phone.

From Staff Correspondent A tense situation has been

prevailing in the area. Sources said there is 150 acres of disputed cultivable land near the Saropur border outpost of Beanibazar thana.

On information, a BDR patrol reached the area.

But it came under attack from

the BSF. BDR personnel fired

back. The exchange of fire continued for about 90 minutes and about 200 to 250 rounds of gunshots were fired.

An official in the BDR sector headquarters in Sylhet said. Sector Commander Colonel Harun-Ur-Rashid Khan and 20 Battalion Commander Lt. Colonel Mozammel Haque had been in the Saropar area but felt the situation would defuse soon.

## Bangladesh's B-schools

Inadequate facility, poor exposure are the problems

By Staff Correspondent

from the university, called for Inadequate access to IT, library, research facilities and funds pose serious impediments to improvement of business education in the country. education.

This was suggested by top business students who partici-pated in a roundtable on The Daily Star-sponsored Business Education in Bangladesh yesterday.

Executive Editor of The Daily Star Tawfiq Aziz Khan initiated the discussion at the conference room which was moderated by Syed Munir Khasru, a teacher at the Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University.

The participants stressed on scientific ways of teaching, exchange programme among regional business schools, recruitment of quality teachers and more interactions among the business schools and the

business community. Underscoring the need for improving teacher-student ratio and curriculum enhancement, M. Shahadat Hossain, president of the Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) MS and MBA Club and who is doing his research for an MBA

more employment placement facilities for students at their universities to boost business

The participants said the students needed more practical knowledge on local business affairs, and, therefore, the curriculum should be supported by practical experiences.

The speakers said the class-room lectures, based on western texts, should have special focus on local business.

"We study something in the classrooms but we find a different situation in the practical field," complained a partici-On grading system, there

were mixed reactions. While the students from the private universities expressed satisfaction over the grading system, their public university counterparts felt it was not at all transparent or rational. Most of the private university students said they can

evaluate the teachers and con-

tinuation of teachers' job de-pends on the students' evalua-

tion. On the contrary, public

university students said they

did not have the scope to evaluate teachers' performance and had to bear with whatever they

In terms of teaching students, private universities in general ensure a comparatively better accountability mecha-nism which helps elevate the standard of education.

Business students from both the private and public universities termed the teacher-student relationship as 'by and large good', saying they can talk to teachers outside the classroom if the needs arise.

Regarding employment, the participants called for an increased role of the business schools to strengthen contact with the business firms to help students get jobs. Some of the private university students said they could directly talk to the administration about resolving their problems. A total of 16 students from

Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, North South University, Asia-Pacific University, Independent University. AMA International University, East West University and Open University attended the roundtable.

