

# The Daily Star

## on Friday

VOL. X NO. 181 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2000

3rd Millennium

SABAN 6, 1407 BS

RABIUS SAANI 18, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE: TAKA 9.00

### Neglected Martyrs' Monument

Granite tower badly stained with seeping chemicals

By Staff Correspondent

The 33-foot high granite tower at the Martyred Intellectuals Monument at Rayer Bazar in the city has been badly stained with 'chemicals' seeping out of the structure. Engineers at the Public Works Department (PWD) suspect that massive air and land pollution caused by the tanneries at Hazaribagh have inflicted the damage on the Tk 10.56 lakh imported stone structure which was inaugurated only seven months ago. The project entailed a cost of Tk 17.61 crore.

It was on this site that many of the country's brilliant intellectuals were brutally murdered at the flag end of the Liberation War in 1971 when the enemy sensed obvious defeat.

The black granite tower with a 40-foot diameter and rectangular in shape is a unique structure in the country. Engineers who were monitoring the project admitted that they 'lacked

See page 11 col 6



The black granite tower at the Martyred Intellectuals Monument at Rayer Bazar in the city has been badly stained within six months of its installation. — Star photo

### Four more generals in army ranks

By Special Correspondent

Four more Brigadiers were promoted to the rank of Major General yesterday.

They are: Brigadier Abu Tayeb M Zahurul Alam, psc, officiating as GOC, Mymensingh; Brigadier Alauddin M Abdul Wadud, Bir Protik, ndc, psc officiating as GOC of Comilla and Brigadier Abul Hossain, officiating as Director General of Medical Services and Brigadier Abdul Matin, ndu, psc.

Promotion of Brigadier Abdul Matin was approved earlier but formally announced yesterday. He was serving as Defence Adviser in Bangladesh mission in Delhi. He would take charge as the GOC, Rangpur.

With them, the number of Major Generals in Bangladesh Army rose to 26, sources said.

As reported in the Daily Star on Wednesday, yesterday's promotions filled up vacancies in the present set up of the Army.

This is the second time in six months that Brigadiers were promoted to the rank of Major General. Earlier, five Brigadiers were promoted to the rank of Major General on February 20, in the biggest ever reshuffle on the same day, five area commanders were named.

A press release issued by the Defence Services yesterday said

See page 11 col 6

### Petrobangla initials PSC with Maersk

By Staff Correspondent

Petrobangla yesterday initiated a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with European oil company Maersk Oile for oil and gas exploration in deep sea blocks 19 and 20.

Sources said that the PSC focuses on conducting seismic survey in these blocks, which spread more than 200 kilometres into the deep sea, in the first three years of Initial Operation Period (IOP).

Bangladesh exploration and production company BAPEX will get a 10 per cent carried over interest in these two blocks.

Specialised in deep sea exploration, Maersk would undertake its oil and gas drilling programme on the basis of its own gas market study. Maersk says it would undertake a gas field development programme only if the gas reserve prospect in these two blocks showed a total of at least 3 trillion cubic feet.

"Since deep sea exploration and development involve huge investment, Maersk's proposal is reasonable," observed an official. Investment in these two blocks could go as high as one billion dollars if Maersk decided to develop gas fields.

Maersk has also proposed, as per the guideline of the Model PSC, that it was interested in the option of exporting gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The other option for selling gas to Petrobangla would mean installing up to 200 km of gas pipeline in the Bay of Bengal.

### PM may find US trip too warm for comfort

Gas export likely to top agenda in Hasina-Clinton talks

By M Anwarul Haq

Although the Bangladesh Prime Minister is expected to be received warmly by the US President during her first official visit to US in October, she might come under serious pressure to accept several proposals regarding US investments in Bangladesh, diplomatic sources said.

A flurry of diplomatic communications is going on between Dhaka and Washington to confirm the date, detailed itinerary and to fix the salient 'talking points' during the summit between Sheikh Hasina and Bill Clinton.

It may seem to many that her visit only two and half months before the end of Clinton's presidency may not be very significant. But the fact is otherwise. Considering the bipartisan foreign policy of the US government and the Congress, Sheikh Hasina's visit will have all the elements of seriousness and continuity of growing US interest in Bangladesh, the sources said.

They said the summit between Hasina and Clinton will focus on further expanding US

business and commercial interests in Bangladesh, particularly in the oil and gas sector with special emphasis on pipeline export of gas to India involving US companies.

US investors in the energy sector have been fine-tuning Bangladesh for the last few years. Their interest to explore energy in the country and export gas to India through pipeline is now an open secret.

Prior to his departure from Dhaka, US Ambassador John Holzman called for sale of gas without waiting much. He expressed the apprehension that gas might lose its value if kept reserved for as long as 50 years as agreed publicly both by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

In fact, Holzman's views were articulation of US government's latest policy stand and an indirect pressure on the government, which is likely to be more direct when the Bangladesh Prime Minister meets the US President. By all indications, it seems the US government will not be happy

to hear a negative answer, the sources said. But it would be a difficult decision for Sheikh Hasina in an election year.

The US government's position on pipeline gas sale has become more obvious now because of the pressure from American oil giants.

Former US ambassador to Sri Lanka Teresita C Schaffer now working with the Washington based Centre for Strategic and International Studies came to Dhaka last month with representatives from a number of Latin American countries which export gas through pipeline. She pleaded for pipeline export gas to India.

Bruce McMullen, Senior Energy Advisor of USAID in Dhaka, when asked at Schaffer's news conference said, "Bangladesh's gas reserves would vary between 13 TCF (trillion cubic feet) and 100 TCF although the figures swing". The figures are generally not accepted by Dhaka, which says the proven reserve is in the neighborhood of 10 TCF.

However, a section of

See page 11 col 7

### Bomb scare for Biman

By Staff Correspondent

A bomb alert delayed departure of a Biman flight to Jessore at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday afternoon, aviation sources said.

Biman and airport security along with police swung into action immediately after an unidentified caller claimed there was a bomb inside an F-28 aircraft that was about to fly for Jessore at 4:45 pm.

The passengers were evacuated and the aircraft was thoroughly searched but no bomb was found, the sources said.

### CEC braces for worst

60 out of 122 centres for Jhalakathi by-polls 'risky'

Sixty out of 122 centres in Jhalakathi-2 Constituency have been identified as 'vulnerable' in the by-election scheduled for July 31, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in a meeting between the Election Commission and chiefs of different law enforcing agencies in Dhaka yesterday with Chief Election Commissioner MA Sayed in the chair.

The Election Commission has decided to deploy adequate number of police, Ansar, BDR and Army personnel in the polling centres to maintain law and order, said an EC press release.

It said a 28-member law enforcing team will be deployed in each risky centre while other centres will have a 26-member team each.

See page 11 col 6

### Clarification

The Ministry of Labour and Employment yesterday gave a rejoinder to a news item published in The Daily Star on July 7 under the headline 'Doubly Victimised'.

The rejoinder contradicted the report that a section of officials and employees at the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training were realising money from the Gulf War victims.

Our Reply: The Daily Star report was based on complaints by scores of victims who said that they were forced to give toll to a section of officials and employees to get their compensation money.

Excessive drinking can result in zero weight gain and loads of fun.

Not to mention zero guilt.

LOW ON CALORIES. High on taste.

1.1

From the United Kingdom

Grey Global 6 2000

### Rule of outlaws in south-west

Combining operations fail to arrest killing spree

By Abul Kalam Azad

Despite the ongoing combining operation in the country's south-western region, neither killings by outlaws have stopped nor law and order has improved in the areas in the last one and a half years.

Armed terrorists of different outlawed parties continued to kill their rivals and innocent people in the region even after the combining operation began on April 21 last year.

A total of 1,300 people were arrested soon after launching of the operation jointly conducted by the BDR, Armed Police and Ansar. About 500 outlaws have so far surrendered to police along with their arms.

According to available reports, over 60 people were killed in different districts of the region in 1999. The number was 110 in 1998. Ten people have so far been killed in the current year. Most of the killings took place in Jessore and Kushtia.

The victims include journalists, leaders and activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and the ruling party and its front organisations.

The latest victim was Shamsur Rahman, special correspondent of the Daily Janakantha, based in Jessore. Gunmen shot him dead at his Jail Road

office on Sunday night. He was once involved in left politics and his recent reports on activities of outlawed parties were appreciated by all quarters.

Rahman was the second journalist killed by armed terrorists after R M Saiful Islam Mukul, Editor of the daily Runner, was gunned in Jessore town on August 30, 1998. Mukul died on the spot when armed assailants sprayed bullets on him on his way back to Deshpara residence.

In 1999, the biggest terrorist incident in the region was the bomb attack at a cultural function of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi. Ten people were killed and more than 200 injured when two powerful bombs exploded at the function on Jessore Town Hall premises in the early hours of March 7. The killings created a sensation throughout the country.

Another sensational incident was the killing of five persons including JSD central leader and valiant freedom fighter Kazi Aref Ahmed. They were shot dead on February 16 at a public meeting at Khali daspur Primary School ground in Kushtia. Fifteen others were injured in the incident.

See page 11 col 7

First what your Chest needs. Breathing Space.

First what your Legs need. Moving Comfort.

VISIT CATS EYE WORLD AT

Dhaka:

- 72, new elephant road, monsur bhaban, dhaka-1205
- 54, new elephant road, minita plaza, dhaka-1205

Chittagong:

- 1147/a, east nasirabad, ifco complex cda avenue, chittagong
- 19, bipani bitan, chittagong

CAT'S EYE