



## Fresh blowout at Tengratila, flames leap up to 150 ft

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A huge fire broke out in a relief well drilled under the supervision of Canadian company Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd at the ill-fated Tengratila gas field in Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj again early yesterday, only five months after a severe blowout had almost destroyed the gas field on January 7.

It occurred at around 3:00am when drilling of the relief well at the Chhatak gas field was going on. The drilling began on June 1 to kill the main Chhatak Well No. 2 with mud and seal it off with cement.

For the drilling of the relief well, Niko engaged Bob Grace of GSM Enterprises, Inc from Texas, USA, as the lead advisor and project in-charge. It hoped to finish drilling up to 466 metres in 6-8 weeks. Yesterday's explosion took place at a depth of 435 metres, sources informed.

The Canadian company in a press release yesterday attributed the cause of the disaster to "a sudden uncontrolled mud loss in the relief well" causing "gas with very high flow rate" coming up through the well to the surface.

Signed by Niko President Qasim Sharif, the press release said, "We

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



A huge blowout blazes the Tengratila gas field yesterday, only five months after January's disastrous fire there.

## Jubo Dal leader murdered, law enforcers kill assailant

Drug peddler killed in Rab 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sagir Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assassins yesterday gunned down Sagir Ahmed, Dhaka city (south) general secretary of ruling BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, near his old Dhaka residence while patrolling law enforcement teams shot dead one of the assailants after the criminals shot and wounded a police bavilder.

Police said the assailant could only tell his name--Shaon, 24, before dying. They could not give any details about him immediately. Witnesses said a gang of five to six

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

assailants sprayed bullets on Sagir, 38, soon after he along with his six-year-old son Tousif came out of Sonamiah Al Falah Jame Masjid, about 60 yards off his Nasir Uddin Sarder Lane residence in Sutrapur, after Jum'a prayers.

"The criminals pushed Tousif down on the road and shot 10-12 bullets on Sagir point blank at about 1:30pm," said an employee of a nearby salon who witnessed the incident. Sagir came out of the mosque a little earlier in order to look after the activities going on in

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Ahmad bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on an official visit.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin received the minister at Zia International Airport.

Al-Mahmoud is leading a 17-member delegation comprising senior officials of Qatar government. He will call on Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan today. It will be followed by official talks between the two countries.

During the talks, the two sides are expected to focus on areas already identified for mutually beneficial cooperation, particularly in the fields of manpower and civil aviation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Qatar minister arrives

UNB, Dhaka



Recovered live bomb, left, and an Ahmadiyya mosque after an arson attack damaged it.

PHOTO: STAR



## Ahmadiyya area in B'baria bombed, mosque torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Zealots yesterday exploded about two dozen bombs in Ahmadiyya-inhabited area in Brahmanbaria town and set fire to an Ahmadiyya mosque in the area.

Police and locals said another Ahmadiyya mosque in the area was also bombed at the same time.

Local Ahmadiyyas said police recovered three time bombs and

about 25 home made bombs, but police said they recovered only three home made bombs.

Two members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat-Bashir Ahmed Mithu, 25, and Ayesha Begum, 40, sustained injuries while they were running for cover. They were treated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Police failed to arrest anyone involved in the yesterday's attacks. A series of attacks on Ahmadiyyas

took place across the country, aiming at forcing the government to brand the minority Muslim sect as non-Muslim.

About 10-15 bombs went off at East Kandipara in Brahmanbaria town at around 3:00am, minutes after the zealots set the mosque afire.

According to Ahmadiyyas, they saw fire burning one of the fences of their prayer house, rushed there and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## DU teacher killed in US road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Dr Sitara Parvin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Munna demands fresh election, resignation of 'partisan' CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defeated independent candidate in the Narsingdi-1 by-polls yesterday rejected the result and demanded re-election and resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) for his 'partisan' role.

Shahadat Hossain Munna told reporters at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity he would go to the court, if need be, to challenge the result.

He said, "I wrote several times to the CEC to take steps for a free, fair

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Housing Loan

For purchase/construction of  
apartment  
house  
commercial space

Competitive rate \* Easy terms \* Prompt service \* Fair dealing \* Incentive on timely repayment

## MIDAS FINANCING LIMITED (MFL)

a real friend of entrepreneurs

Dhaka - Tel : 9111920, 9145703, 8116094-5, 8116186-7

Chittagong - Tel : 031-716231, 711017

Khulna - Tel : 041-721857

## Lease Financing

For acquisition of

Machinery & Equipment  
Vehicle, Marine Transport  
Lift, Generator, etc.



You can make the number 37 by adding historical significant. But we are making the number 37 to make history itself.