

## IMF assures Dhaka of continued support

**BSS, Washington**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded the overall macro-economic performance of Bangladesh and assured the country of continued support in its efforts to achieve faster growth and poverty reduction.

The assurance came as Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman briefed IMF Managing Director Rodrigo de Rato on the macro-economic performance of the government at a meeting on Tuesday.

The minister mentioned that despite last year's devastating floods

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## JMB recruited over 100 ex-army men

**Militant 'trainer' ex-lance corporal tells investigators**

**STAR REPORT**

Retired lance corporal of the army Harun-ur-Rashid, 'trainer' of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) now being quizzed at Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in the capital, told investigators that JMB has recruited more than a hundred retired army men.

The drive to recruit non-commissioned army men was proposed by Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, operations commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), around three years back to strengthen the military wing of the outfit, a JIC source said quoting Harun.

The former army personnel also disclosed the identities of more than 50 ex-army men, the source said seeking anonymity.

Harun was arrested at Monipur in Dhaka on Tuesday after arrested JMB militant Obaidullah Suman informed law enforcers that Harun and honorary captain Mohiuddin trained them on how to make and operate bombs and firearms.

Suman was arrested recently in Kishoreganj with four kilograms of powder explosives and 50 detonators and is now being quizzed at the JIC.

Following Harun's disclosure, members of different intelligence agencies started cross-checking his statements and working to find out the former army officials who joined the JMB.

Meanwhile, investigators said

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## Drilling 7 wells Bapex rejects Niko proposal for jt meet

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

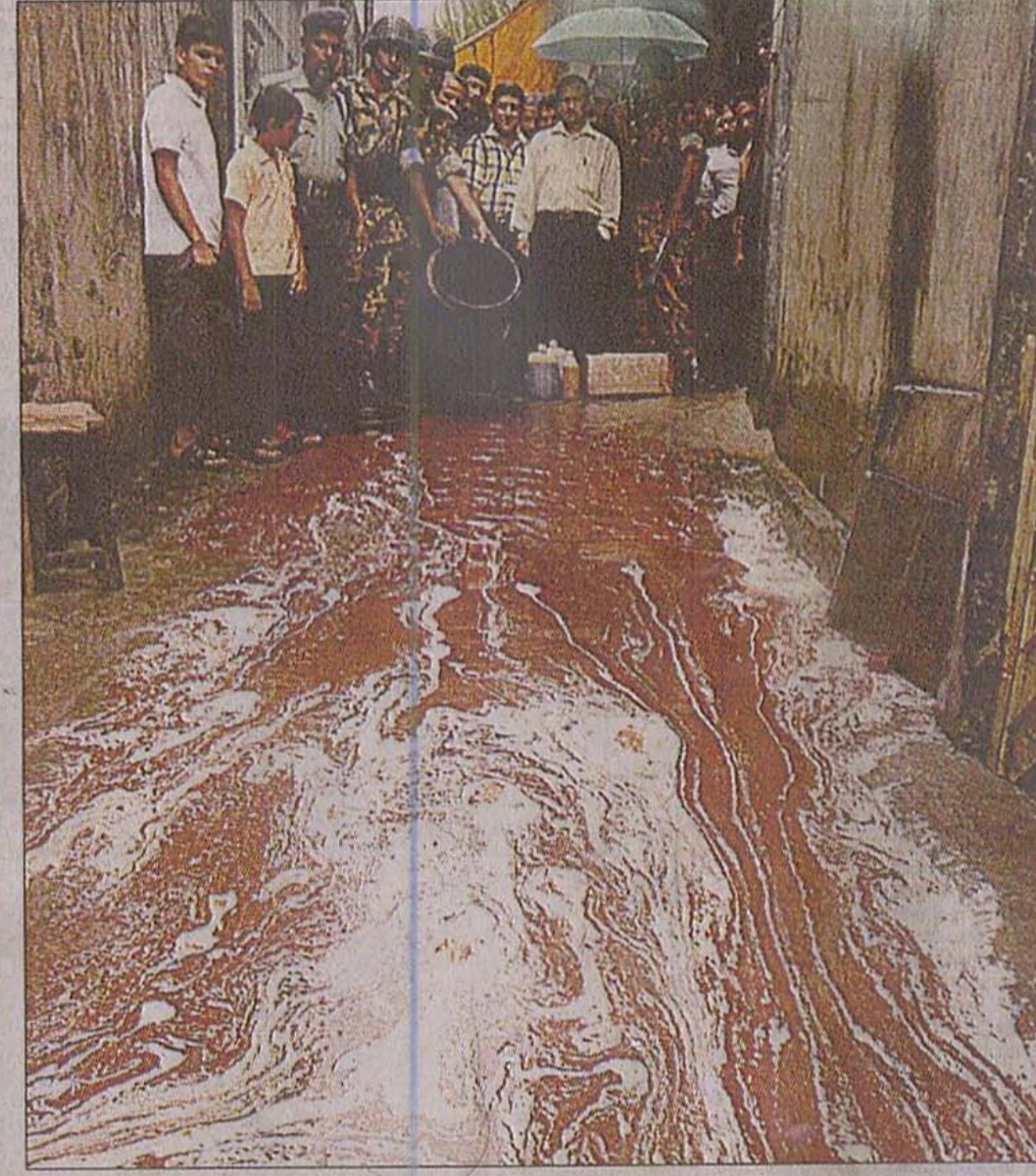
Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) has turned down Canadian company Niko's proposal to hold a joint management committee (JMC) meeting to approve drilling of seven gas wells.

The state-run company argued that the Canadian company's plan to drill the seven wells violates the joint venture agreement (JVA) between the two companies, a source in Niko said.

They however held a JMC meeting yesterday to discuss installation of a compressor in the Feni gas field to boost gas production.

Niko yesterday sought a fresh

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Members of a mobile court drain spurious flavour, chemicals and food colour during a raid on Mark ice cream factory in Tejgaon in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANSUR RAHMAN

## Saarc energy ministers to meet Oct 1

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Ahead of the November Saarc Summit in Dhaka, the energy ministers of the member countries will meet in Islamabad on October 1 to discuss energy cooperation among the member states. The ministers will also try to accelerate the integration of energy strategies in the region.

According to sources, the meeting will discuss the progress of initiatives including the proposal to form a Saarc Energy Ring. The meeting is expected to achieve substantial progress in materialising the

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## Small power plant deals stalled Bid to benefit ruling party men

**SHARIER KHAN**

The government yesterday suspended the process to award small power plant deals with public utilities with a view to benefit a bigger number of ruling party activists at the cost of the state, sources said.

This decision came following a feud between a group of ruling party lawmakers and influential people, who have been assured of such deals, and those who did not get such assurance.

Sources said the government last month made a secret list of 23 small private power plant builders, who will get guaranteed sale of power to the Power Development Board (PDB), Rural Electrification Board (Reb) and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa).

However, none of them is a genuine power plant developer, but ruling party businesspersons and even ministers.

But pressure from the 'have-nots' group had forced the government to increase the number of the beneficiaries to 50 from 23, the sources added.

These 50 plants will not be set up on the basis of power demand, but on the basis of who are the most influential in the ruling party.

The government in August declared it has selected 23 locations from where the public utilities will buy power from the small plants. Private investors were asked to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) to set up small power plants ranging 10 megawatt to 50 MW capacity in those locations.

The PDB, Reb and Desa started giving out the EOI forms to interested parties last month. This

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## BPC to stop fuel supply to Biman from Oct 1

**BDNEWS, Ctg**

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is going to stop supply of jet fuel to Biman Bangladesh Airlines from October 1 for non-payment of arrears.

Chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Sheikh Kurshid Alam in a letter issued on September 4 informed the Biman authorities of stopping supply of jet fuel from October 1 if Biman fails to pay the outstanding

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## Militant 'LINK' OF 8 SERVING ARMY MEN Military launches its own inquiry

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK**

Irrked by the confession of retired lance corporal Harun-ur-Rashid, which points finger at links of eight in-service defence personnel to the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts, the military intelligence forces yesterday launched their own fact-finding mission.

The military sources said all intelligence units of the army, navy and air force, including the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), have started the inquiry while the DGFI is acting as co-ordinator.

"We find the leaking of Harun's statements related to the eight defence personnel to the press very irritating," said an army official, requesting anonymity. "This has maligned the image of the army," he said.

Law enforcers investigating the August 17 blasts arrested Harun on Tuesday in Dhaka. Harun confessed that he had trained the cadres of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) on bomb-making and operation techniques. He also named eight serving defence personnel as trainers of the JMB bomb squads.

The news, which angered the defence community, was widely discussed among the officials of the army, navy and air force all day long yesterday.

"We are surprised how the [civil] investigators leaked such a sensitive information before becoming quite sure of it," said an army official.

"There is no scope for anyone in the defence to be involved with such activities. But since the news has given a clue, we will definitely look into the matter," said the officer.

According to him, the military intelligence will first obtain Harun's confessional statement from the civil investigators and see if he has specifically named the eight defence personnel, mentioning their ranks and postings. Then they will verify the allegation.

If the names are found true, the defence inquirers will look into the full service records and annual reports of the eight to see if they had any disciplinary problems in the past or if they were punished before. The inquirers will also see how they spend their vacations and what kind of social contacts they maintain outside the defence service.

"If the primary inquiry leads to anything suspicious, we will proceed against them as per defence rules and launch formal investigations," the official added. "If their guilt is proved, they will be punished as per military law."

Asked if the armed forces division has already formed a

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Pedestrians wrapped in polythene walk the streets braving the rain in Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## UEO APPOINTMENT CEC rules out probe body formation

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday said no probe committee would be formed to investigate the allegation against the recruitment of upazila election officers (UEOs).

"It is not possible for me to investigate the allegation as the Public Service Commission advertised it in 2003 and selected the UEOs in 2004," Aziz told the BBC Bangla Service yesterday.

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## LABOUR LAW VIOLATION JS body warns RMG units

**UNB, Dhaka**

The parliamentary standing committee on the labour and employment ministry has warned the garment factories that they will face punitive actions, including cancellation of licence, for violation of labour law.

The committee at its 11th meeting at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday

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## Commentary

### Did CEC need to say what he did?

Election is a political event and the EC is its most sensitive nerve centre. People manning it cannot be viewed purely from a technical perspective

**MAHFUZ ANAM**

Responding to a press query about the latest PSC selection of 150 JCD activists as Upazila Election Officers (UEO), Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice MA Aziz said: "The UEOs are appointed through the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Election Commission has nothing to do with it."

The venerable judge should have confined his remarks to that. But quite inexplicably (those who question his political neutrality may say quite understandably) he added, almost as a justification for the recruitment, that everyone has the

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### 3 MILITANTS' ACCOUNTS BB asks banks to furnish info

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday asked all commercial banks to submit information on the bank accounts of three wanted militants including Abdur Rahman and

**Bangla Bhai.**

In a letter to all commercial banks, the BB asked to submit by Sept 30 the information regarding the accounts in their own names, fake names or in the name of any of their organisations or

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### 15 more down with dengue

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Fifteen more people diagnosed with dengue fever, a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquito, were admitted to hospitals and clinics in Dhaka yesterday.

As many as 79 dengue-infected patients are still in different hospitals and clinics of the city, while 20

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## First Death Anniversary of Former Parliamentarian A.K.M Abu Taher



Today, 23rd September'05 first death anniversary of former parliament member, Chairman of BECO Group of Industries, Director and Chairman of National Bank, Director of Progati Insurance and our beloved guardian.

He was a renowned industrialist. Social worker and learned parliamentarian. In recognition of his different development programmes and at the demand of general people, government named a road in his name.

We lost our a guardian and guide. In his first death anniversary, we pray of his celebration and internal peace of his departed soul. We are promised to carry uphold his flag.

**Family members, Officers and Employers :**

- |                      |                       |  |                            |                           |
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| Armana Apparels Ltd. | TSCO Transformer Ltd. | Purbachal Gas Filling                            | Zyta Apparels Ltd.         | Free Star (Hongkong) Ltd. |
| Denimach Ltd.        | Denimach Washing Ltd. | Golden Wear Readymade Garments Manufacturer Ltd. | Prime Enterprise Ltd.      |                           |
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## Lankans complete whitewash

**AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo**

Bangladesh will return empty handed from their month-long Sri Lanka tour after being whitewashed in the two-Test series on the back of an identical one-day series.

Sri Lanka wrapped up the final Test when the home side romped to an innings and 69 run victory on the third morning here on Thursday.

Just like the first Test, which Sri Lanka won by an innings and 96 runs with more than two and a half day's play remaining, Bangladesh's second innings ended ten minutes before lunch.

Resuming on 131-4, the Tigers who needed 135 more runs to force Sri Lanka bat again, they simply caved in on a wicket that held its batting friendly nature even on the third day. They added just 66 runs before being skittled out for 197 in

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