



The Daily Star

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www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 198

DHAKA SUNDAY AUGUST 2, 2009

SRABAN 18, 1416 BS

SABAN 10, 1430 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00

250 families shifted from Bandarban foothills

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

In the wake of 10 deaths caused by landslides in Lama upazila in Bandarban on Friday, the local administration yesterday began shifting people from their houses at the foothills and slopes to safer places.

Some 200 vulnerable families from Lama upazila and 50 families from Bandarban Sadar upazila have already been moved elsewhere till yesterday night.

Bandarban Deputy Commissioner Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star, "Living with so much risk on

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AWARDING \$53M GAS STATION TO CHEVRON

Petrobangla ignores a host of questions

SHARIER KHAN

Petrobangla continues to hammer hurriedly awarding US oil company Chevron the contract for an over-priced gas compressor station project in the Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) system through a questionable process by totally sidelining a host of technical and financial questions raised by a GTCL consultant, sources said.

Gas compressors have become necessary for GTCL as they help increase gas flow and pressure at a desired rate, which is currently being compromised.

Petrobangla Chairman M Muktadir Ali wrote to the energy ministry on July 26 to approve awarding the deal for the project in the GTCL's system in Muchai for \$ 52.7 million in favour of Chevron, the cost of which will be

recoverable from the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Block-12.

But sources said, according to the GTCL consultant, Chevron has not yet submitted its detailed technical and price proposals for Muchai station. An energy ministry approval would actually give Chevron a go-ahead without scrutinising what the GTCL is buying.

The GTCL is not a signatory to the PSC, and there is no instance of any PSC operator like Chevron operating on any system owned by a national company. The Petrobangla chairman in a letter to the energy ministry earlier had said Article 15 of the PSC with Chevron accommodates the company's installation of compressor. But other officials contradict this interpretation.

Petrobangla is Chevron's PSC partner, and

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Gas tariff goes up by 11.2pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday increased gas tariff by 11.2 percent on average with a view to generating fund for gas development, said a member of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

According to the new tariff structure the monthly tariff for a single burner gas oven has been fixed at Tk 400 against its previous rate at Tk 350 and double burner gas oven at Tk 450 against its previous rate at Tk 400, said the BERC official.

For commercial use including tea industry, gas price has been raised to Tk 165 per cubic feet from the previous rate at

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DRIVING TIGERS HOME: All-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad drives the ball on the off-side during his match-winning knock of 51 not out in the third and final one-day against the West Indies at Warner Park in St Kitts. Bangladesh won the match by three wickets and the series 3-0.

PHOTO: AFP

Expelled chief's men attack Proshika staff: 20 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 employees of Proshika were injured on their way to office yesterday in separate attacks carried out in Mirpur by hired men of the NGO's expelled chief Qazi Faruque Ahmed.

Mohammad Abdur Rob, director of microcredit programme of Proshika's new management, however claimed that around 50 Proshika employees sustained injuries in the attacks.

Two of the severely injured were admitted to city's Samarita Hospital and others to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The employees said the attackers were mostly unknown faces.

They alleged that police played a silent role during the attacks. "So many people would not have been hurt had the police played due role,"

said Lutfunnessa Helen, senior programme officer of Proshika.

Senior Accounts Coordinator of the NGO Md Alauddin alleged that Faruque's followers including former Proshika employees Nargis Jahan Banu, Abu Sayeed, Arun Saha, Rita, Sheikh Shahid and Dulal Chandra Dey moved to Proshika office from the Mirpur section-6 kitchen market under police protection.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Qazi Faruque said his men would continue the "agitation" until they take over the office.

He claimed himself to be the legal chairman of the NGO. "I became chairman of Proshika at the AGM [annual general meeting] held on June 6. I got 39 out of 55 votes," he said.

Faruque, meanwhile, suffered a heart attack around 1:00pm yesterday and was admitted to

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Rain fouls up Tipai site visit again

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Torrential rain yesterday prevented the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation from undertaking a ground-level visit to the proposed site of the Tipaimukh project in Manipur for the second consecutive day.

Awami League lawmaker Abdur Razzak, who is leading the delegation, told The Daily Star that they plan to visit the site in November this year when the weather is expected to be clear in the northeastern Indian state.

The delegation, however, made an aerial survey of the site where the 1500MW power project is to come up on Barak river, Razzak told The Daily Star over the phone from Guwahati.

He said the helicopter carrying the delegation members took off from Guwahati at 7:00am and returned at around 11:00am. The chopper hovered over the project site for sometime but could not land due to heavy rain.

"From whatever we could see through the maze of clouds and

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6 suspected militants arrested in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police arrested six militant suspects at Chandmari in Faridpur district on Friday and Saturday due to their alleged involvement with an Islamic outfit.

The arrestees are disciples of Abdur Majid, a teacher of Char Fashion Government College in Bhola. He leads the Islamic organisation named Kalimaya-e-Jamaat.

Rezaul Karim, 25, of Pukuria in Bhanga upazila of

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LONE T20 MATCH TODAY Tigers complete cleansweep

AFP, St Kitts

Half-centuries from Zunaed Siddiqui and Mahmudullah Riyad led Bangladesh to a three-wicket victory, and a 3-0 cleansweep of the one-day international series over West Indies on Friday.

The nery win completed Bangladesh's historic Test and one-day series victories in style. The Tigers, who are yet to set a foot wrong in the Caribbean, will finish their dream trip with the lone T20 International at the same venue today.

The match will start at 1.00am with TEN Sports and state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) beaming the live coverage.

Earlier, on Friday Siddiqui struck six fours in 55 from 73 balls, and Mahmudullah, who was named man-of-the-match, hit two fours and one six in an unbeaten 51 from 70 balls to help Bangladesh overhaul a victory target of 249 in the third and final ODI at Warner Park.

Mahmudullah made sure of victory when he flicked a

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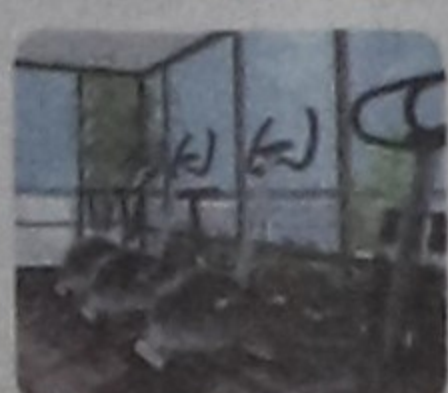
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