



# The Daily Star

Plus Star Lifestyle



COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 220

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 2009

www.thedailystar.net

BHADRA 10, 1416 BS • RAMADAN 3, 1430 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

## Exploration okayed in 3 offshore blocks

Tullow, Conoco invited to work on undisputed Bangladesh waters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved oil and gas exploration bids for three off-shore blocks under the condition that the explorers would not work in the internationally disputed maritime areas until the dispute is resolved.

Ireland-based company Tullow Bangladesh has been awarded shallow water block SS-08-05 while US oil com-

pany Conoco Phillips South Asia New Ventures Ltd deep sea blocks DS-08-10 and 11.

As per the cabinet decision, these companies are allowed to explore the areas of these blocks not claimed by Myanmar or India.

"The condition is that they cannot explore certain parts of these block till the disputes are settled," said Finance Minister AMA Muhith after the committee meeting at the Cabinet Division of the

Secretariat.

This condition was given following an international convention, which says if there is a dispute over maritime boundary, a nation may award blocks but it should not allow exploration in the disputed areas.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, who was present at the meeting, said, "After 22 years of maritime dispute, we have started holding dialogues with our neighbouring

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## Prisoners of forest

Around 25,000 indigenous people left in the lurch as all govts ignored forest laws, their rights

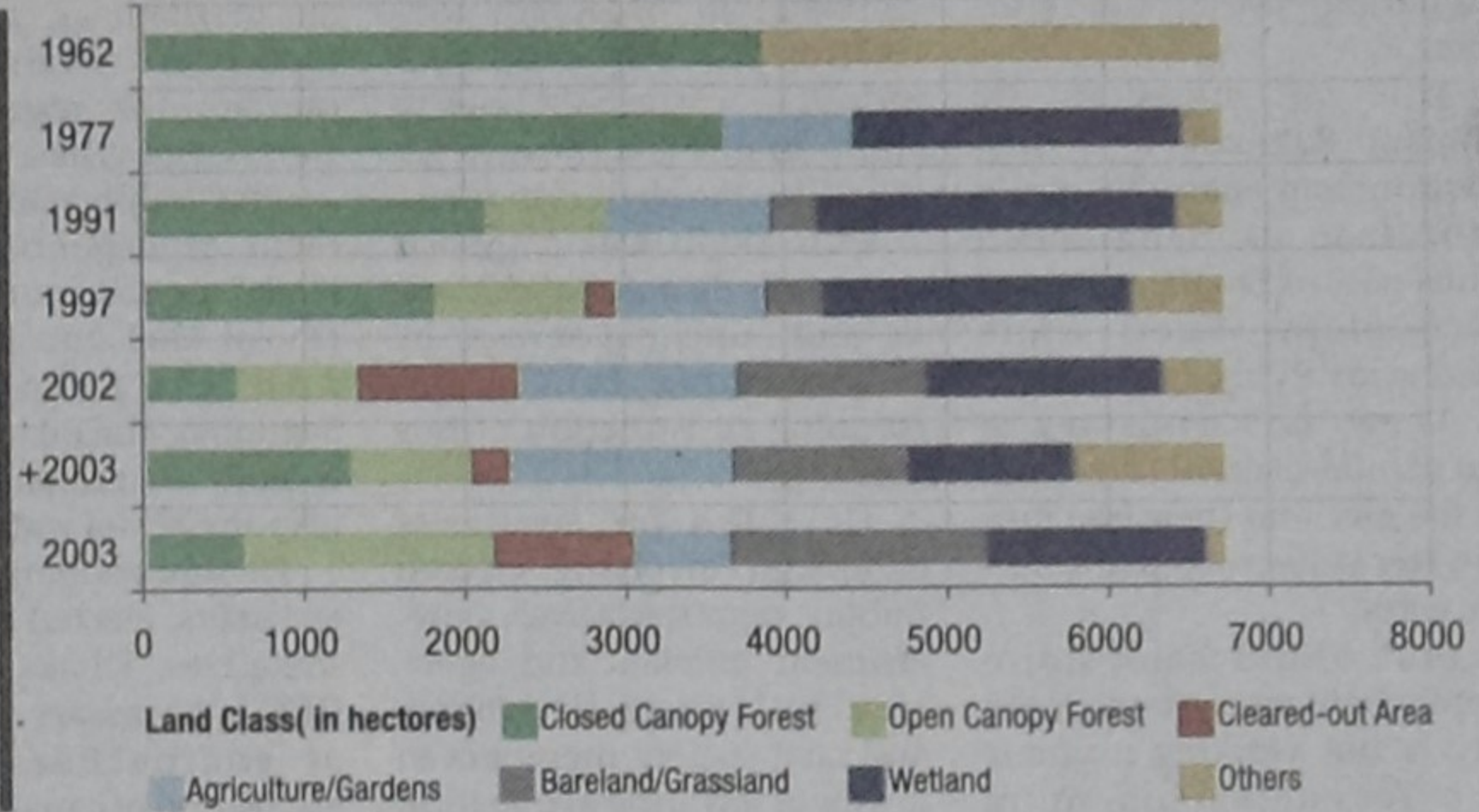
PINAKI ROY

No government has ever complied with the forest laws to recognise the land rights of the indigenous Garo or Mandi and Koch people, traditional inhabitants of the Madhupur Sal Forest, but rather used the forestland for non-forestry purposes.

Around 25,000 indigenous people of 8,630 families now live in 63 villages in and around Madhupur in coherence with the forest and its ecology.

The Garo and Koch people were once the mainstream community here. But the Bangla-speaking people are dominating day by day as the Department of Forest

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## SC hearing on Bangabandhu murder case set for Oct 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday fixed October 5 for holding hearing on the appeals in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

Five convicts in this case -- dismissed army personnel Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Muhiuddin Ahmed, AKM Mahiuddin Ahmed, and Razul Huda, who are behind bars, filed the appeals with the SC in the last week of October 2007 against their death sentences pronounced by the High Court (HC).

Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, fixed the date upon a prayer moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Chief State Counsel advocate Anisul Huq.

Emerging from the court, Mahbubey Alam and Anisul

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Four-year-old Eva fights acute renal failure at Dhaka Shishu Hospital after taking Rid Pharmaceutical's Temset paracetamol syrup. She was given the syrup, inset, almost a month after it was withdrawn from the market.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## One more ends up with renal failure

Rid's banned paracetamol syrup still being sold, prescribed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more child with paracetamol syrup-induced renal failure was admitted to Dhaka Shishu Hospital on Sunday.

Eva, a four-year-old girl of Asadnagar village of Brahmanpara upazila in Comilla, was treated with Rid Pharmaceutical's paracetamol suspension Temset eight days ago.

Sources said the medicines of the company are still being sold by quacks even after over one month of the government order for its withdrawal from market.

Soon after the death of more than 20 children with acute renal failure from June this year, the government ordered to withdraw Rid Pharma's products from the market on July 22. A total of 27 children have so far died of acute renal failure at Dhaka Shishu Hospital and most of the patients are from Comilla.

"Eva has been suffering from fever since August 14. When her father took her to village quack Sanjit, he gave the suspension. As her condition deteriorated after taking the medicine, we brought her to Dhaka Shishu Hospital," said her mother Hosne Ara.

The 60-ml Temset suspension was from batch 6 and its manufacturing date was June 2009 while the expiry date June 2011. The price of the suspension is only Tk 12.77, she showed.

"This is the third case from the same Brahmanpara area. According to the parents, they did not hear anything about the spurious drugs as they do not have radio and television, nor do

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## Food tender hijacked

Jubo, Chhatra Leagues men obstruct others to drop schedules; Rab, police remain inactive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League and Chhatra League cadres snatched tender schedules from a number of contractors inside the Khadya Bhaban of food ministry in presence of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel yesterday noon.

The hired cadres also destroyed the schedules of a number of contractors and beat up them when they went to drop the schedules

around 12:30pm at the boxes kept there.

Though a huge number of Rab and police were present on the spot, they played the role of silent spectators.

Ramna zone Deputy Commissioner of DMP Atiqul Islam said he was not aware of such incident. But Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh police station, said a scuffle took

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PICTURES ON PAGE 5

## PM asks to stop illegal parking

Check traffic jam

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities to ensure vehicles are not parked haphazardly as illegal parking contributes to huge traffic snarl-ups in the city every day.

At a regular cabinet meeting, she also directed them to draft a parking policy immediately.

Her directions come at a time when the police and road

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## Smuggling surges

Essentials going to Myanmar; Yaba, narcotics coming in

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Essential commodities, including edible soybean oil, onion, garlic and rice, are being smuggled into Myanmar through at least 23 border points of Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas in the district, sources concerned said.

In exchange, banned tablet Yaba, narcotics, sexual stimulant and other items are coming into Bangladesh.

Sources said about 180 smugglers in 25 syndicates are conducting the illegal trade of crores taka through the border points. Some commodities are recovered by the security forces but most of the goods are smuggled safely.

The points include Nila, Natmora Para, Chowdhury Para, Leda, Jadimura, Domdomia, Wabrang, Moulvibazar, Hoikhong, Kanjar Para, Minabazar, Jhimongkhali, Lomba Beel,

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