

BNP not against Bay exploration
Wants deals to be made public

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said his party is not against gas extraction but the people have to be informed about the deals with foreign companies.

"The prime minister has rightly said that our natural resources must be explored. But people have the right to know under which terms and conditions foreign companies are being allowed to extract gas," he told reporters at

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Dhaka to seek UN tribunal

Decides to refer sea limit row with India, Myanmar to the world forum; decision taken as bilateral talks failed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will go to the United Nations arbitration for a resolution of its long-standing dispute with India and Myanmar over maritime boundary.

Announcing the decision at a press briefing yesterday, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said the government has decided to take the matter up with the UN, as talks over the last 35 years could not settle it.

"We are submitting the issue to compulsory arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to ensure our sovereign rights to the natural resources in the Bay," Moni noted.

She, however, said bilateral discussions will go on.

Earlier in the day, her ministry called in the Indian high commissioner and Myanmarese ambassador in Dhaka and gave them

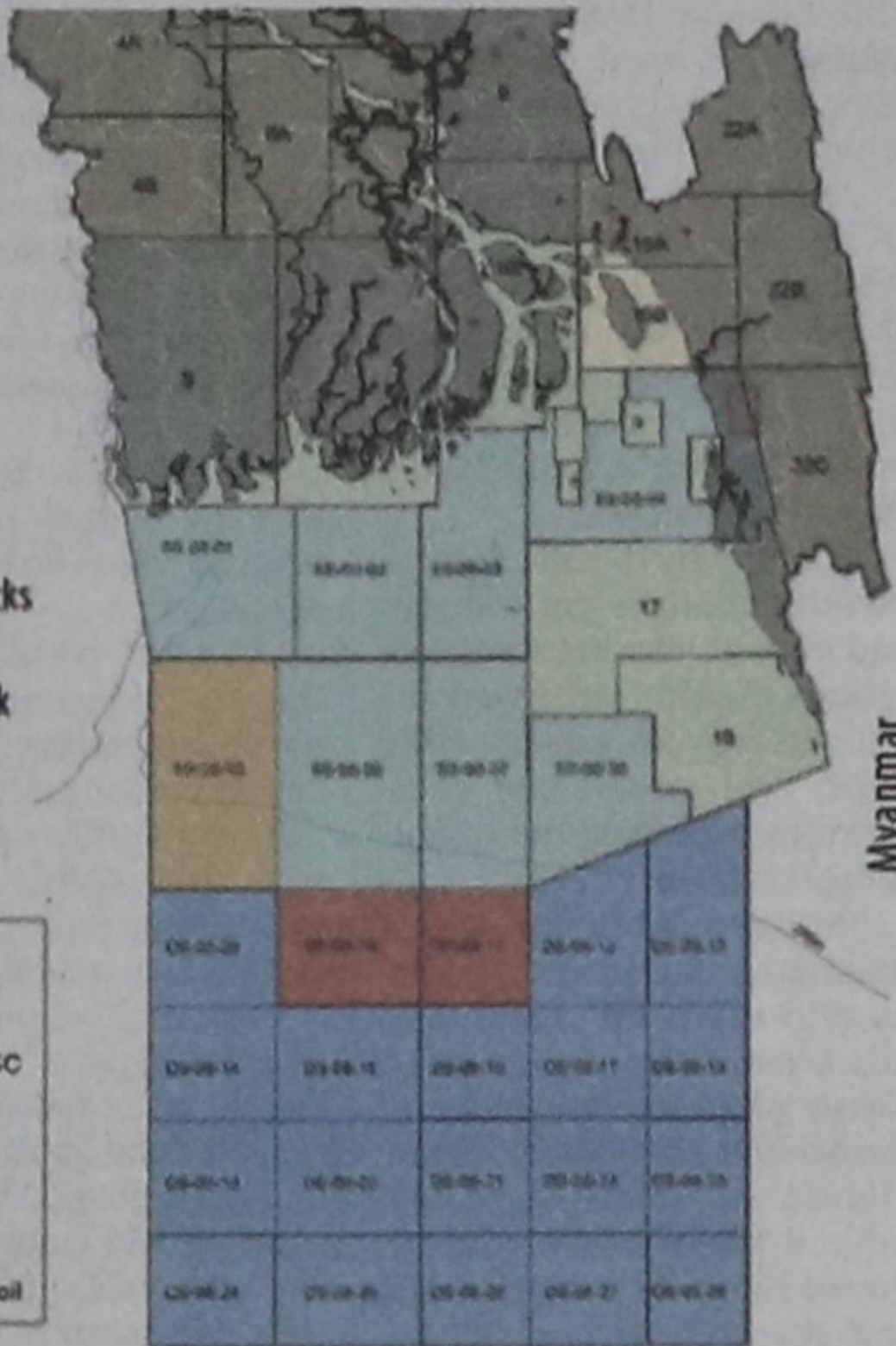
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Offshore Oil & Gas Block Map

India

Conoco Blocks
Tullow Block

Legend
Onshore Blocks
Bapex Blocks
Blocks under PSC
Blocks for Offshore Bidding Round
Type-A Blocks
Type-B Blocks
Gas Fields
Gas Fields with oil



MYANMAR BORDER Govt mobilises troops

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Bangladesh has reinforced its troops along the border with Myanmar as tension went high following repeated provocative acts by the latter's military forces including violation of international border and illegal construction of barbed-wire fences along the frontier.

Highly-placed sources in the government said the reinforcement was required as the Myanmar military junta deployed huge troops with heavy weapons within five kilometres of the border and many of them frequently intruded into Bangladesh territory, added the sources.

Bangladesh in the past always resolved all disputes with its neighbours through bilateral discussion but this time the authorities had taken it seriously and they are taking steps accordingly, said the sources.

The tension ran high as Myanmar troops fired several shots towards Bangladesh territory, witnesses said.

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WIDEN CRICKETER PICKS
Shakib Test best of the year

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan did the nation proud when the young all-rounder won the Wisden Cricketer magazine's Test Player of the Year for 2009 award pushing a star cast behind in the race for the coveted laurel.

The 22-year-old cricketer from Magura, named in the World Test Eleven last week,

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BTRC serves legal notice on Amar Dosh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) on October 5 served a legal notice on Amar Dosh Publication Ltd to apologise before the commission within

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NOTICE

As part of its commitment to reach out to more readers, *The Daily Star* will widen coverage of areas outside Dhaka by dedicating two pages to national news from Sunday. Watch out for more.

ACC probing 'graft' by 5 political bigwigs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has initiated enquiries into the charges of misuse of power and amassing wealth by illegal means against five former and incumbent lawmakers of Awami League and BNP including Amir Hossain Amu and Khaleda Zia's younger brother Sayeed Eskander.

The other politicians are AL lawmaker MA Mannan, and former BNP ministers Mirza Abbas and MK Anwar.

Of them, enquiry is being conducted

on charge of amassing wealth illegally by Amu, Mannan, and Sayeed Eskander while for misuse of power against MK Anwar and Mirza Abbas.

"We have started enquiry into the allegations of misuse of power and illegally amassing wealth by them," ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told reporters yesterday.

"If enquiry finds the allegation substantiated, legal actions will be taken against them. The commission would not backtrack on taking action against anyone whether they are from the ruling

party or the opposition," he added.

Sources in ACC said the enquiries have been initiated following allegations from individuals. The committee scrutinising allegations at the commission has found the allegations worthy of enquiry.

This is the first mentionable effort made by the anti-corruption body since Ghulam Rahman took over office over three months back.

The allegation brought against MK Anwar is misusing his power in selecting his daughter in BCS examination. BNP's

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KALAPARA GANG RAPE
Odhikar submits memos

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Odhikar, a human rights watchdog, yesterday submitted separate memorandums to Patuakhali deputy commissioner (DC), superintendent of police (SP) and commanding officer of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) demanding immediate action in the gang rape incident at Kalapara.

The organisation also demanded immediate arrest

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PM wants more help from UN

Peacekeeping chief meets her

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought UN recognition and its support for the development of Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation and Training (BIPSOT) to enhance its capacity.

She sought the support when the visiting UN Under Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Alain Le Roy called on her at the Prime Minister's Office here.

During the meeting, they discussed wide range of issues involving the UN peacekeeping operations to establish peace in different countries across the world, said Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad after the meeting.

Speaking on the recently concluded United Nations General

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A rickshaw puller takes a nap yesterday chaining himself to his rickshaw near Dhaka Medical College Hospital to prevent it from getting stolen. On Wednesday, criminals killed a rickshaw puller in the capital's Agargaon and made away with the rickshaw.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DMP lets 3,800 unfit vehicles off the hook

KAILASH SARKAR

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has let off 3,800 of the 4,300 unfit vehicles, seized in a month-long drive before Eid-ul-Fitr, on condition that they would not be run on city roads.

However, most of those outdated vehicles including buses and pick-ups have returned to city streets in violation of the agreement.

DMP had launched the special drive as part of the present government's bid to ease nagging traffic congestion in the capital. But the drive seems to go in vain as the city residents continue to experience severe traffic jam in city streets.

The traffic department pointed out running of huge number of private vehicles on roads as one main cause of tailbacks.

Sources said many of the seized buses have already made their way back to city roads with faulty signal system and engines after being coated with paint.

Traffic department personnel along with members of the crime division, Ansar and community police have already been engaged in the move to deal with increased traffic congestion, DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said on Wednesday.

"We are trying our best. But the situation has gone out of control as the number of motor vehicles has gone beyond the capacity of city roads," he said.

The DMP Commissioner said they had returned 3,800 of the 4,300 unfit vehicles to their owners taking bonds that those

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Protect Turag, Buriganga

HC directs authorities again; asks 4 govt high-ups to visit grabbed areas in 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued further directives upon the authorities concerned to protect the Turag and Buriganga rivers from grabbers as construction of illegal structures and earth-filling continue at some points despite several similar directives.

The HC directed four government high

officials to stop all kinds of encroachment and earth-filling on these rivers.

The court ordered them to visit in seven days the areas on the Turag and Buriganga where land grabbers are continuing earth-filling.

The officials are the chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), the director general of the Directorate of Environment, the

deputy commissioner of Dhaka and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

The division bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also directed them to submit a report to the HC through its registrar within seven days after visiting the areas.

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PM opens excavation of a canal

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for establishing and developing water bodies and canals to protect environment of the capital city.

She made the call while inaugurating the excavation of a canal and water reservoir in old airport area of the

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Ziaur Rahman involved in incidents of Aug 15

Lt Col (retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed said in court statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu murder convict Lt Col (retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed in his confessional statement said Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman was involved in the incidents of August 15, 1975 in which Bangabandhu and most of his family members were assassinated.

Mohiuddin made the statement before the



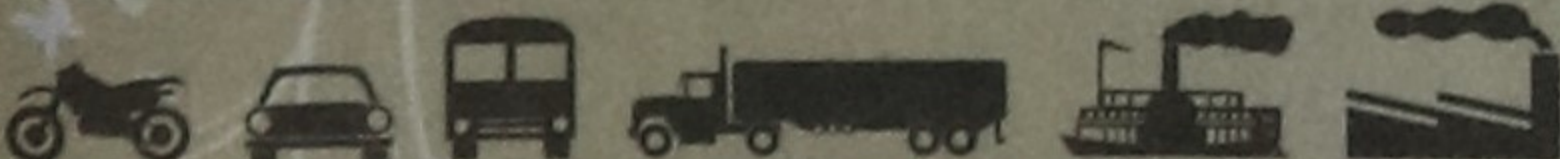
then additional chief metropolitan magistrate Md Habibur Rahman on November 27, 1996.

Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun, counsel for convicts Bazul Huda and AKM

Mohiuddin, yesterday placed the statement of Mohiuddin Ahmed before the

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