



# The Daily Star



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## IOCs can now export gas

Govt re-introduces the provision in its model production sharing contract for offshore gas exploration to woo int'l oil companies

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

International oil companies will now be able to export gas explored from Bangladesh's offshore blocks in the Bay.

The government has reintroduced the provision for export of gas by the drilling companies in the Offshore Model PSC 2019. This will not be applicable for onshore blocks.

Bangladesh has 26 blocks in the Bay. Contracts for 22 of them have not been awarded yet.

Besides, it has also decided to provide the international companies with more incentives like increase of gas price, exemption of tariff and mandatory drilling option in the Offshore Model PSC that the cabinet committee on economic affairs approved recently.

The government had earlier included the export provision in the production sharing contract (PSC) in 2008 but amid criticism it was discarded in the 2012 version.

The country failed to lure expected number of international companies during the bidding round in 2012 owing to absence of the export provision and inadequate fiscal incentives, prompting the

**OFFSHORE MODEL PSC 2019**

Gas price increased from \$6.50 to \$7.25 per thousand cubic feet

More incentives, exemption of tariff for IOCs

government to backtrack on this, according to energy experts.

This time the government has framed two PSCs -- Onshore Model PSC 2019 and Offshore Model PSC 2019.

The Onshore Model PSC 2019 that governs the blocks onshore will still bar gas export and won't provide other incentives that are offered for shallow water and deep-sea blocks under the Offshore Model PSC 2019.

The ceiling price of gas has been revised up to \$215 per tonne from \$200 for offshore blocks. The floor price is \$100. For onshore blocks, the floor price has remained \$100 per tonne and the ceiling \$200, according to a government document.

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Two-year-old Jannat trembles with fever in her father's arms while her mother pours water on her head at the capital's Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday. Jannat was admitted to the hospital with dengue six days ago.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## No SIM card for Rohingyas

BTRC tells mobile phone operators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To stop Rohingya refugees from using mobile phones, the BTRC and carriers yesterday decided to halt sale of SIM cards in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar until further notice.

They also decided to suspend 3G and 4G services in the upazilas between 5:00pm and 5:00am every day and make sure that signal from Bangladesh's carriers cannot be received from Myanmar, officials said.

Since there are about 8-9 lakh active SIMs in the Rohingya camp areas, the cell phone carriers were asked to check the database of national identity cards and find out to whom the SIMs were registered.

The decisions came at a meeting between the cell phone carriers and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission at the latter's office in the capital.

On Sunday, the BTRC directed all mobile phone carriers to stop selling SIMs to Rohingyas and ensure that the refugees are not provided with cell phone services.

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## STATE-OWNED AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS

# Govt to utilise 'idle money'

Law on the cards for using the surplus amount for development purposes; 68 organisations now have over Tk 2 lakh crore in banks

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law that would allow the government to use "idle funds" of state-owned organisations for development work.

There are 68 state-owned autonomous organisation which have Tk 2,12,100 crore deposited in banks,

said Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam after the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Among the 68 organisations, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has the highest Tk 21,580 crore of idle money deposited in banks followed by Petrobangla Tk 18,204 crore, Dhaka Power Distribution

Authority Tk 13,454 crore, Chattogram Port Authority Tk 9,913 crore, and Rajuk Tk 4,030 crore.

"This money is not being used for good purposes. So, the government policy is to bring the money to the national exchequer and spend it on public welfare related activities," Shafiul said.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নিকট থেকে মনু সিরামিক ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ-এর চেয়ারম্যান আফরোজা খান রিতা নারী উদ্যোক্তা ও রপ্তানিকারক হিসাবে ২০১৬-২০১৭ অর্থ বছরে জাতীয় রপ্তানি ট্রফি (শেফ) গ্রহণ করছেন।

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