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Dhaka for gas export in 'value added form'

By Staff Correspondent

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed has said while the government has adopted a policy of not exporting gas through pipeline without ensuring gas reserves for 50 years' domestic consumption, it is encouraging gas export in the form of value added products like electricity and fertiliser.

Speaking at a seminar on 'Energy Sector Restructuring: Current Issues' in the city yesterday, the minister said while a number of economic projections showed that pipeline gas export would be most profitable, Bangladesh is moving very cautiously in

this regard. He mentioned that countries like Nigeria despite having huge natural resources were not economically benefited because of the lack of understanding of energy sector.

"But we must also remember that our potential gas buyers - India -- would not wait forever for us to decide whether we

would export gas," Tofail said. The future of gas as a source of energy should also be considered.

The next government would have to think seriously about these issues, Tofail said, because by then many economic problems relating to purchase

See page 11 col 7



Bangladesh opener Javed Omar Belim watches a delivery on his way to scoring an unbeaten 85 in the Pepsi Asia Cup opener against defending champions Sri Lanka at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Adarsha Market at Fulbaria

487 owners charged Tk 5000 each as 'cost for getting back' shops

By Staff Correspondent

The committee of shop owners of Adarsha Market at Fulbaria in the city has imposed a 'charge' of Tk 5,000 on each of the 487 shop owners for returning their shops which were 'recaptured' by the DCC on May 22 after two years of occupation by a group.

Chairman of the 22-member committee Rafiuddin Ahmed claimed that the money was being realised to 'recover the cost' for getting back the market. He said that after the market was illegally occupied by a group 25 months ago, they had to run court cases which involved a lot

of money.

The controversy over Adarsha market arose when the Waqf Administration under the Religious Affairs Ministry leased out the land about three years ago. At the same spot, DCC had already built structures in 1989 with a temporary scheme to rehabilitate the hawkers in Gulistan area. A cluster of four markets at Fulbaria including Adarsha market, popularly known as Bangabazar, became one of the busiest garment markets in the country.

The lease holders of Waqf

Administration forcibly occupied Adarsha market more than two years ago and ousted the DCC lease holders. On May 22, DCC officials with the help of police 'recaptured' the market and handed it over to the market committee.

On Sunday, the committee office on 'top floor' of the two-storyed tin shed market was seen full of DCC lease holders depositing a card each to take possession of their shops.

I am happy to pay this amount and get back my shop

See page 11 col 6

CHT Regional Council Act '98 challenged

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court issued rule on the government yesterday to show cause as to why the Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban Hill Districts Amendment Act and the CHT Regional Council Act of 1998 shall not be declared ultra vires to the Constitution, reports UNB.

Secretaries of Law Ministry and Special Affairs Division have been made respondents to the rule, returnable in 8 weeks.

The division bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain issued the rule upon a writ petition filed by Mohammad Badruzzaman, a settler in Rangamati, challenging the

constitutionality of the Acts.

Moving the petition Barrister Abdur Razak contended that the Chittagong Hill Tracts are part and parcel of the unitary state of Bangladesh. But by creating a Regional Council comprising the three hill districts as an autonomous region, the basic structure of the state as contemplated in the Constitution has been destroyed.

The counsel argued that various provisions of the Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban Hill Districts Acts are also inconsistent with the Constitution. The local government council of the three districts as stand now are not local government within the

See page 11 col 6

Man of the Match



Aravinda de Silva of Sri Lanka

AL unlikely to take fresh move for dialogue

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League is unlikely to take a fresh move to bring the opposition back to the Jatiya Sangsad now that its attempt to appoint the new chief election commissioner on consensus failed due to an obstinate opposition.

The ruling party policy planners do not see any point in inviting opposition parties to talks again as they had rejected every single offer for discussion since the opposition MPs began boycotting the parliament sessions in July last, according to

party sources.

Prime Minister's adviser on parliamentary affairs Suranjit Sengupta told the Daily Star last night that the government was very much open to the idea of a dialogue. But he did not say whether the ruling party would make any fresh offer for talks with the opposition.

"We are eagerly waiting for the opposition to return to parliament. We hope they will come back to parliament since they have shifted focus to the

See page 2

Source: Islamic Foundation

One page special supplement on the 19th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman

Page 8

unfolding of the situation on Monday.

Time to time, the teams will inquire with Rajuk, DCC, BRTC, DMP, Rajuk, and the transport sector participated in the workshop, moderated by Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, Deputy National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and a professor of Architecture at BUET. The Daily Star Editor Mahinuzzaman

See page 11 col 7

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