



**Chhatra League activists brandish sharp weapons during a clash with Jubo League cadres on Rajshahi University campus yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Cairn allowed to sell gas to 3rd party

BSS, Dhaka

The law ministry has endorsed the energy ministry's proposal to allow Cairn, the operator of Sangu Gas field, to sell its gas to any third party within the country.

"We are set to sign a contract with the Cairn, the British oil and gas company, today (Sunday) thus it could collect rig by December to go for drilling in South Sangu to tap 30 to 50 mmcf gas", a Petrobangla official told BSS yesterday.

Earlier, the company informed Petrobangla to sign contract within June 30 otherwise it would not be able to go for drilling any appraisal well at South Sangu this winter.

Energy ministry approved the UK-based Cairn Energy for selling gas to a third party in August last year other than Petrobangla produced from Magnama and Hatiya. Cairn completed the 3D seismic survey there although it will take some time more for analysing the data.

"Through this tapping the Sangu gas field would get life for next one and half year", energy ministry official said.

Petrobangla's PSC cell said as per condition Cairn has to submit a report to Petrobangla where it will give every details of

the sale agreement between the third party and Cairn, including the gas price.

And if Petrobangla agrees to buy the gas as per proposed price than Cairn would have to sell gas to it. Petrobangla, however, will get 30 days to take its decision in this regard.

According to PSC, Cairn is selling gas to Petrobangla at a price of US dollar 2.9 for 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf), following the approval it could fix its rate as per negotiation.

"As per amendment, we (Petrobangla) will get same benefit as they will get higher price, it would be calculated by the accounts department", a top official said. However, for the first time the government recommended any foreign company to sell gas to the private sector. At present all the international oil companies in operations are selling gas to Petrobangla only.

"Cairn will be allowed to sell only their portion of gas to a third party as per the production sharing contract (PSC) for block 16," Petrobangla official added.

The Cairn official said if there is any availability, the gas production from Magnama and Hatiya structures would be possible by next three and a half years. "A US\$ 40 to 50 million would be required to implement the plan to tap pocket gases of south Sangu", the official said.

## 'Raise awareness to end violence against women'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Soroptimist International Club emphasised the need for raising political and social awareness to end violence against women.

Not only arrest for a short time, but also taking meaningful legal action to carry out the justice process of the perpetrators as well as creating political and social awareness are a must to put an end to violence against women, they said.

They were speaking at a press conference on rising brutality and violence

against women, young girls and children across the country at the National Press Club in the city on Friday, said a press release.

Speakers at the press conference highlighted various forms of repression by the perpetrators ranging from stalking, beating, stoning, whipping, acid throwing, torching and provoking to commit suicide.

Maleka Begum, Salma Ali, Salma Khan, Taleya Rahman, Najma Siddiqui, Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Syed Abul Moksud and Ramendu Majumdar.

## Bangladeshi shot by Indian Khasias on Sylhet border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi was shot by the Indian Khasia tribesmen on Jaintapur borders yesterday. The injured identified as Sumon Miah, 15, was taken to the Jaintapur Pushpala Health Complex from where he was rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Speech impaired Sumon, son of Nazrul Islam of Dibir Haor, was shot at about 5:00pm as he had gone to bring his bullock from the grazing ground close to the borders, locals said. The Jaintapur BDR camp in-charge, Havilder Abdur Rahman sent him to the hospital.

Tension flared up again in Sylhet borders as the Indian Khasia tribesmen intruded for the second day yesterday for ploughing on farmlands near Mina Tila and Kathalbari border in Jaintapur. They also into Mina Tila area on Friday morning, just a day after the DDG level border coordination meeting between the BSF and BDR.

About 25 Khaisa tribesmen with bows and arrows entered the Bangladesh territory crossing the borders in Kathalbari area through near border pillar 1283 at about 10:00am yesterday and started ploughing on the croplands. The BDR men asked the Indians to go back, which they denied.

On receiving news, about 150 Bangladeshi nationals gathered the area, tried to vandalise the border post and raised slogans against the BDR men of the nearby Kathalbari post for not taking action against the intruders.

About 150 more Indians joined the previous group at 2:00pm.

About 200 Bangladeshis chased the Indians away from the Kathalbari lands at about 3:00pm.

Several fires were shots from the Indian side near Dibir Haor, one of them hit Sumon.

Second-in-command of 21 Battalion of BDR, Major Abdullah Al Mamun confirmed the incident.

## A few benches damaged democracy in the past

Says Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League Advisory Council member Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said a few benches in the higher court had damaged the country's democracy in the past.

The nation has witnessed a section of the judges to play roles in favour of every military rule in Bangladesh while the world has seen that the judiciary in Pakistan had played an effective role in establishing democracy in that country, he said.

Suranjit, also the ruling party lawmaker, said this while he was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled "Budgetary allocation for law and justice: An exploratory analysis" organised by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) at its auditorium yesterday.

Suranjit, also chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, said the judiciary has been independent nominally since this organ is to depend on the ministry of finance still now for its budgetary allocation.

The administration of the judiciary is still now working under the executive, he said, adding that the judiciary has to be given authority to allocate its own budget for its real independence.

The purview of the judiciary should be extended through setting up more courts in the country and it should be independent in true sense for establishing rule of law and democracy, he said.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said the government is allocating budget necessary for the expenses of the judiciary although there is no specific allocation in the budget for it.

He said Tk 12 crore has been allocated in the proposed budget of 2010-2011 fiscal year for the trial of war crimes and it will be enhanced if necessary.

BILIA Honorary Director Dr Shahdeen Malik, Nijera Kori Executive Director Khushi Kabir, Supreme Court lawyers SM Mumin, Tureen Afroz, Abdullah Al Mamun, Aftab Uddin Ahmed and Shashanka Shekhar Halder also spoke at the seminar with Professor Rehman Sobhan in the chair.

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