

Cut in proposed taxes

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 Moreover, if we wanted to make the country self-reliant we should not have sought foreign aid. But, though unfortunate, it is a reality that Bangladesh would have to depend on foreign aid until the end of the century, he added.

Overruling opposition criticisms, Saifur said that it was logical that the budget would reflect the ideas of the BNP government and added that there was no contradiction between the economic thought of his party with that of the national situation.

Saifur said that everyone wanted to build the country. "Our leader Ziaur Rahman wanted politics of unity, not division, a politics of reconciliation, not revenge," he added.

Referring to suggestions by the Opposition to revise taxes and tariffs, the Finance Minister said that not even an elected government had unlimited options to meet the demands.

Stressing the need for maintaining law and order, Saifur said that without law and order the economy would not move in the right direction. He observed that maintenance of law and order was not the responsibility of the government alone and added that the Opposition was very much a part of governance.

Quoting from the budget speech of former Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmed made in 1974, Saifur said that law and order was a problem even at that time.

Commenting on the performances of the BNP government over the past months, Saifur said that the decade under the rule of Ershad was a lost decade to Bangladesh. "It was a decade of stagnation, decline, low growth, mismanagement characterised by deception and duplicity of a self-seeking group," he added.

Talking on the need for poverty alleviation, Saifur said that it would not be possible without growth and investment. He further said that by qualitatively improving the Annual Development Programme and effecting structural arrangement of the declining phenomenon of the economy would have to be reversed.

He went on to say that economy would have to be externalised, not internalised. To invigorate the different sectors, externalisation was the way out, he added.

Brushing aside criticisms of opponents, the Finance Minister said that while taking loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund the BNP did not compromise with the sovereignty of the country.

The Finance Minister sought the cooperation of everyone to improve the efficiency of public sectors like jute, textiles and engineering. He said that to cut unproductive expenditures in these sectors a national decision was necessary but informed the House that he did not see the possibility of any such private investments which would replace the public sector.

BSS adds: Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abus Samad Azad yesterday called for consolidating the gains of democratic movement that led to the formation of parliamentary form of government as per the formula emerging out of consensus of the three alliances.

Participating in the general discussion on budget, he said in doing so we all should make sincere endeavours to strengthen the democratic institutions and ensure effective control of the Jatiya Sangsad on the affairs of the government.

The policy guidelines that crystallised in the Declaration of the alliances through the movement should be materialised in every sphere of life to uphold the verdict of the people, he said adding: Otherwise the people would take their own course to decide their future.

Azad said as the current year's budget was the first budget given by a parliamentary form of government after several years' rule of non-representative governments, the Finance Minister should have involved the parliamentary

standing committees in the process of preparation of the budget to start the practice of democratic culture.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition advocated for giving subsidy to agriculture sector and said otherwise the country would suffer more in terms of food production.

He also proposed reduction of tax on CI sheets, dry chilies, powder milk, wheat, kerosene, cotton, yarn and petrol. This is for giving relief to the poorer section of the society, he said adding: The government had turned out to be 'great profiteers' in case of fuel, making more than cent per cent profit on the product.

He also suggested rationalisation of the VAT at 10 per cent from present 15 per cent.

Azad welcomed the observation of the Finance Minister whereby he said that law and order was the precondition to economic growth and pointed out the deterioration of law and order in the country was due to failure of government in management and also for patronising 'mastans'. He said that the government should form a parliamentary sub-committee to identify the 'reality' and suggest measures to curb terrorism.

Azad was critical about the manner the Home Minister was trying to hide follies of police personnel and said that if law and order could not be improved, the future of democracy would be at stake. BNP government could not be protected by the police alone, he alerted.

Turning to the Hill Tracts problem, Opposition Deputy Leader Samad Azad said the political problems should be dealt with at the political plank. He suggested formation of a parliamentary committee with Col (ret'd) OI Ahmed as its head for solving the problems, replacing the present committee headed by the same minister. No member from the opposition would join the present committee unless it is changed to a parliamentary committee, he said.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Chief of the treasury bench, while taking part in the budget discussion said that the proposed budget had clearly offered a direction for a gradual economic emancipation of the country.

The Finance Minister's proposal to finance 24 per cent of the development programme of the country reflected the government desire to make the country self-reliant gradually.

The Chief Whip passionately urged the opposition parties in Parliament to come forward unitedly and work for the development of the country and thus help consolidate democracy.



Mahila Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding improvement of law and order situation. — Star photo

5 killed, 13 injured in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five people were killed and 13 others injured in four separate road accidents in Dhaka, Fatullah, Mymensingh and Garbandha during the last two days.

Rabul Alam Biplob, 18, a college student was killed and his friend Mahub Kascem Runu, 18, was seriously injured when their motor-bike was knocked down by a Dhaka University bus at Maghbazar in the city at around 3 pm Sunday.

The accident occurred when Biplob and Runu were going to Maghbazar from Bangla Motor on a motor bike.

Fatally injured Biplob was rushed to the Holy Family Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Runu was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

His condition is said to be serious.

Biplob was the second son of Akram Hossain, an Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Detective Branch of Police.

In another incident, a rickshawpuller, Hanif Mirzha, 40, died on the spot when a speeding truck knocked down his rickshaw on the Pagla main road at Fatulla Sunday.

The victim's body was sent to the Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: At least one person was killed and another eight were injured when an auto tempo and a truck collided head on at Kismat area on the Mymensingh-Tangail highway early Sunday.

The auto-tempo driver Bimol Chandra Bhat died instantly and eight other injured tempo passengers were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Our Correspondent from Garbandha writes: Two persons were killed and four others injured when a truck skidded off the Bogra-Rangpur highway at Kallitola and fell into a ditch Saturday.

All the victims were on the truck which was bound for Rangpur.

The injured persons were admitted to a local hospital.

Strikes keep varsities shut for 195 days

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong Universities remained closed for 195 days due to strikes till date since 1991. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar Sunday informed the parliament.

In response to a question by Hajj Rashed Mosharrar of Awami League, the minister said that Rajshahi University was closed for the highest 87 days followed by 63 days strike in Chittagong University.

Dhaka University remained closed for 45 days due to strikes, he said.

Sircar said that out of the 45-day strike in Dhaka University, the teachers went on strikes for 40 days.

Hearing of writ on Golam Azam is a citizen of Bangladesh as per 1952 act

By Staff Correspondent

Submitting the arguments in the Golam Azam's writ petition Barrister A R Yusuf said as per citizenship Act 1951, adopted in Bangladesh by operation of Law of Continuance and Enforcement Order 1971 Prof Golam Azam is a citizen of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Yusuf argued that Prof Azam continued his citizenship uninterrupted till December 14, 1972. The PO 149 of 1972 promulgated on December 15, 1972 replaced the act of 1951 by inserting 'notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force' with retrospective effect from March 26, 1972.

The hearing of Prof Golam Azam's writ petition challenging notification for disqualification his citizenship continued yesterday for the sixth day before a High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court.

The bench comprised Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury.

Adamjee colony

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Adamjee, retaliated and staged a counter-attack with similar weapons as their rivals, the witnesses added.

The clash soon spread to the Shapla Chattar, New Colony and Dhaka Baju Colony areas inside the mills premises.

Hundreds of blasts rocked the area as both sides randomly exchanged gunfire.

Police used shotguns and tear-gas to bring the situation under control.

However, the clashes soon spread to the adjoining areas of the mills and two other workers' groups also joined the fray.

One group allegedly led by Abul Kashem, Vice-President of the BNP unit of Siddhirganj thana, took position near the Moonlight Cinema Hall while another group led by Rehanuddin Rehan, President of the CBA and Awami League-backed Sramik League unit, took up positions at the nearby Sona Mian Market.

Clashes soon engulfed the area as the Khatir-group allegedly with help from local BNP activists clashed with the Rehan-group that allied itself with the Sardar-group.

The rival groups of workers opened gunfire indiscriminately while exploding hundreds of crackers letting loose a reign of terror in the area.

Police finally managed to bring the situation under control at around 3 pm. Police again used shotguns and tear-gas to disperse the rival groups from the area.

Of the injured, the three school boys were identified as Arif, Jasim and Munir, all stu-

dents of the Adamjee Jute Mills High School.

Of the ten injured policemen, three received bullet injuries. Habibdar Halim (40) was hit by a bullet near the Kadamtali Bridge at around 11:45 am. He was admitted to the Narayanganj Notun Hospital with stomach injuries.

Two other constables, Aminur (40) and Aminul Islam (38), also sustained bullet injuries. Seven other policemen were released after being given first-aid.

Many other injured persons were admitted to local clinics as some of the workers avoided being admitted to hospitals fearing arrest.

Leaders of the Adamjee Jute Mills unit of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal in a statement confirmed that a number of their activists sustained bullet injuries in the clashes.

The mills authorities, when contacted, refused to comment on the day's incidents.

Shop owners at both Sona Mian and the Karim markets said that several shops were looted during the clashes.

The arrested persons were identified by police as Amir Hossain (25), Nurul Islam (35), Alam (25), Nurul Mohammad (30) and Rezaul (38).

Today's clashes were a sequel to the ongoing dispute between the rival groups of workers which led three persons dead in the last three months.

On May 30, the Sardar-group occupying the Dhaka Baju Colony at the time was forcibly removed from the colony by a rival group led by Abul Khatir.

South Korean girl bags gold

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women's individual cycling road race.

A record 171 nations are in the first boycott free Summer Olympics since 1972 and the first after the end of the Cold War.

Swimmers swiftly hit their stride in preliminary heats. US gold medal favourite Jenny Thompson broke the Olympic record in the 100-meter freestyle, and Evgeny Sadoviy of the Unified Team did the same in the men's 200 freestyle.

Germany, making its first united appearance since 1964, held off an Italian cycling foursome to win the men's 100-kilometer team time trial.

Three western Germans and one from former East Germany pulled together to win the first Summer Olympic medal since German unification melded the two sports powers in 1990.

In 1988, the Soviet Union led the medal table with 55. This time, most of the former Soviet republics are competing as the Unified team, for the last time.

East Germany was second with 37 and West Germany tied for fifth with Hungary at 11, behind host South Korea's 12. The United States were third with 36.

Cuba, one of the last remaining socialist nations, returned Sunday with a bang after staying away from the last two Olympics.

The island's baseball squad, the gold medal favourite, whipped the Dominican Republic 8-0 in their first preliminary round game. Taiwan trounced Italy 8-2 in another.

In volleyball, the Cubans opened with a 15-12, 17-15, 6-15, 15-10 victory over the Netherlands. The defending champion Americans edged Japan 15-8, 11-15, 10-15, 17-16, 16-14 in their opener.

Cuba — also a boxing power — and North Korea both joined a Communist nations boycott of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and then stayed out of the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, capital of the North's capitalist arch-rival, South Ko-

re.

Yugoslavia, banned from team sports under UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, got the air rifle bronze medal through Aranka Binder.

Gold medal favourite Vesela Letcheva of Bulgaria settled for silver.

Thompson, 19, swam an Olympic record in a women's 100-meter freestyle preliminary heat, four months after setting the world mark at the US trials.

Thompson's time of 54.69 seconds sliced .10 off the record set by Barbara Krause for East Germany at the 1980 Moscow Games. Thompson's world record is 54.48.

Sadoviy's Olympic mark in the 200 freestyle, 1:46.74 minutes, bettered the 4-year-old mark by Duncan Armstrong of Australia by .51 seconds.

In early basketball, the Unified Team beat Venezuela 78-64, Lithuania — formerly part of the Soviet team — overpowered China 112-75, and Australia downed Puerto Rico 116-76.

The US "Dream Team," mobbed like rock stars Saturday while venturing to the athletes' village from their luxury hotel, actually start playing Sunday — against rank underdog Angola, an African nation devastated by war.

At the 10-meter platform, 13-year-old Fu Mingxia of China bears the title of youngest world champion in diving history, and is the hope of Communist authorities seeking to make their nation a world sports power by the end of the century.

South Africa was back in the Games, with Trevor Strydrom leading re-entry in the fencing part of the modern pentathlon Sunday.

One of the Games' favourites didn't even have to compete.

That was archer Antonio Rebollo, whose fiery shot through the night sky lit the 21-meter (69-foot) — high Olympic Stadium cauldron where the Games' flame will be seen throughout Barcelona during the two weeks of competition.

The 37-year-old two-time Paralympic bronze medalist practised more than 1,000 shots to ensure perfection for his conspicuous role, which came shortly after Spain's King Juan Carlos I formally declared the Games open.

Earlier, as athletes from marched in, there were special cheers for the delegation from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina, newly independent from Yugoslavia.

Even before the opening ceremony, these Games had their first drug case.

Shot putter Kalman Konya was dropped from Germany's Olympic team because he failed to show up for a drug test and suspended for two months, the German delegation said.

In all, 10,632 athletes — 71 per cent of them men — have registered to compete in Barcelona, up from the record 9,581 four years ago.

Track and field has by far the most entries: 1,935. Next comes rowing, with 697 competitors, and swimming, with 668.

Tamils

From Page 1 Col 8

Calcutta Saturday aboard a Bangladesh Biman flight from where they would avail an Indian airliner to Colombo via Madras.

The four Tamils were identified as Dunstan Nishanth, Ms Sotily Kala Thirunavukarasu, Arunasalam Kasinathan Kuruparan and Shahmudas Kirupanantha who claimed that they were computer engineering students in Sri Lanka. They were residents of troubled Jaffna province dominated by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelams (LTTE).

The airport official had earlier said that they possibly destroyed their documents on board to seek political asylum in Holland.

The Sri Lankans used ZIA as their transit point on July 10 on their way to Bombay.

Two die in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men were found dead at Fakirapool and Demra areas in the city Sunday.

Abdul Majid, 18, was found dead near his father-in-law's house at Fakirapool Saturday morning.

The victim's wife Lipi told the police she heard knocking at the door early morning and when she opened the door she found her husband critically ill, according to police.

Majid was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors on duty declared him dead.

Majid's elder brother, Abdul Mannan, a newspaper hawker told police that Majid married Lipi without the consent of the family and following the marriage Majid severed connections with the family.

On an information from Lipi's relatives Saturday, Mannan rushed to the DMCH where he found his brother dead.

Mannan lodged a case with Motijheel police and said, he was suspicious of the death, but he did not bring any specific charge against any person in connection with his brother's unnatural death.

Lipi's father Shaheb Ali also told police that Majid did not stay with them but often came to visit his daughter.

Meanwhile, the autopsy of the body was done at the Forensic Department of the DMCH and a medical source said that Majid died of poisoning.

Motijheel police said they were waiting for the autopsy report to facilitate further investigation. No arrest was made so far, police said.

In another incident, Demra police recovered the body of an unidentified person from DND canal under Uttarpara bridge near Matuail Saturday morning. The victim was about 30.

Police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Murder of Shibir activists: Two accused get bail

By Court Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka granted bail yesterday to Hero and Zinu, accused of killing two Shibir activists on July 18.

Hero and Zinu, wanted in connection with the deaths of the two during a clash between Jamaat and Nirmul Committee activists, surrendered before the CMM court Sunday.

The prosecution strongly opposed the bail petition.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8

Ershad regime, she observed that although autocracy was removed, there has not yet been any major change in the overall situation.

"The attitude of the present government is contrary to reaching consensus on national issues — leading to widespread frustration among the people," she remarked.

Hasina said, "We believe that implementation of democratic values in all spheres of national life is indispensable for achieving national development and prosperity".

Mustafiz

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visited Dhaka in 1990.

A highly-placed source hinted that an announcement on a prime ministerial trip to the country in the near future might also be made.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit could take place sometime early next year, the source added. The French envoy in Dhaka recently spoke of a visit by the Bangladesh head of government next year.

The Foreign Minister is to talk bilateral trade, setting up of joint venture projects, Bangladesh-EEC relations and other issues with French officials.

In recent years, exports to France have seen a marked rise. The two-way trade showed a 60-million dollar surplus in favour of Bangladesh in the past year.

Textiles and garments are the major Dhaka sales, constituting about 88 per cent of the total exports. The country is the second largest garments buyer after the US.

France is a major donor in Bangladesh's Flood Action Plan and gives aid in a number of areas.

After a three-day stay in Paris, the Foreign Minister's delegation will fly to Madrid Friday (July 31).

The two-day Spain visit, also the first ministerial level contact since the democratic government took over, would deal with bilateral relations especially trade and economic cooperation.

The Foreign Minister returns home August 2.

The Midnight File

Zardari hospitalised
 KARACHI, July 26: Asif Zardari, jilted husband of former Prime Minister and main Opposition Leader Benazir Bhutto, has been hospitalized after complaining of chest pains, a spokesman for Bhutto said here today. He was admitted to the Agha Khan Hospital here Saturday and several tests were taken by the doctors, the spokesman said, reports AFP.

C-130 plane crashes in southern Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan, July 26: A military C-130 plane crashed while trying to land near a southern city retaken from rebels this week, the army said. It said some of those on board were killed. An army statement blamed the crash Saturday on bad weather "which made the plane veer from the landing strip." It did not say how many people were on board or how many were killed, but said there were some survivors, reports AP.

BTV to set up 4 new relay stations

Star Report
 Construction work on the four new television relay stations in different cities of the country is expected to start within a couple of months.

With the setting up of the new BTV relay stations at Patuakhali, Thakurgaon, Kushtia and Brahmanbaria at a cost of Tk 28.50 crore, the number of BTV viewers would be increased by about 12 million, official sources said.

The relay stations will be set up with technical and financial assistance from France, the sources added.

The architectural, structural, electrical and other designs of the station buildings have almost been completed, according to the sources.

The sources said the preliminary selection of the sites for the proposed stations has been done in the respective cities but not officially finalised except for the one in Patuakhali.

The responsibility of choosing the sites for the three other stations would be assigned to the concerned authorities within a few weeks, they said.

According to the prototype design, each of the four relay stations would have a relay building, a police post, a staff dormitory, an inspection bungalow, the station manager's residence and a triangular, self-supported tower.

An official said BTV had been contemplating setting up these stations since 1988, but it could not be launched due to financial constraints.

After installation of the new stations, 90 per cent of the country's population and 85 per cent of the total area would come under the 'telecasting zone'.

The Information Minister told the Jatiya Sangsad earlier this month that the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (NEC) had approved the project at a meeting on December 1, 1991.

The minister mentioned that some areas of the southern part of the country, the bordering region and some small pockets were still outside the telecasting zone.

Textile mills

From Page 1 Col 5

The President of the Association, Lt Col (ret'd) Kazi Selim Uddin addressing the rally said that the government policy and involvement of corrupt officials in the administration were helping the smugglers in their trade. He said that the wrong policy of the past government had left the textile sector sick.

Later, a procession of the Association went to the Prime Minister's Secretariat and handed her the memorandum.

The memorandum also demanded implementation of the Sick Industries Cell on the textile industries.

In view of the idleness of the majority of the looms in the country, the Association also demanded immediate halt to the import of grey cloth.

At present, only one lakh handlooms out of a total six lakhs and 40,000 power looms out of a total of one lakh are running in the country, according to the Association estimates.

The memorandum also called for implementing the recommendations of the Textile Ministry sub-committee on specialised textiles.

The Association said that a total of Taka 821.39 crore had been invested during the eighties in the specialised textile sector of which Taka 650 crore was provided by the entrepreneurs.

About two lakh workers were employed in these textile mills. But 80 per cent of these mills had been closed down rendering 1.5 lakh workers jobless, according to the Association.

The Association felt that if this sector was revamped, Bangladesh would become a permanent market for foreign fabrics.

"But this minimal progress cannot obscure the reality that Myanmar human rights situation remains deplorable," he added, noting that Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi was beginning her fourth year of house arrest on political charges.

"Collectively, our message to the Myanmar military authorities must be loud and clear: Release all political prisoners immediately and begin a dialogue aimed at rapidly transferring power to a democratically-elected government," he said.

Baker called attention to what he called the tragic plight of more than 2,70,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees driven from their homes into Bangladesh, and of another 70,000 forced into Thailand.

To Our Agents

The Management of The Daily Star has sent reminders to all its Agents to clear their dues by July 27, 1992.

We shall be constrained to stop supply of The Daily Star to the defaulting agents from July 28, 1992 unless the dues are paid within the scheduled date.

We seek cooperation from all our valued Agents.

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