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AmCham panel observes Budget to retard growth of booming sectors

The proposed budget for the next fiscal will impair the country's competitiveness and the import surcharge will certainly retard the growth of booming sectors...

M A Muhith also did not support the imposition of the surcharge, saying that surcharges are bad and they are distortionary tax mode.

Muhith noted that the budget's weakest part is industrialisation and said the government should take special measures to build up textile mills.

He also called for downsizing the bureaucracy. AmCham President Forrest Cookson and Executive Secretary A Gafur also spoke in the meeting...

Mushtaq Ahmed, a tax consultant with the SF Ahmed and Company, was also bitterly critical about the "general and overall imposition" of the surcharge...

Ziaur Rahman Khan of BNP criticised Finance Minister SAMS Kibria for speaking of AL politics in the past 21 years in his budget speech.

Speaking on the proposed budget, Mosharraf Hossain of BNP said the finance minister inserted a good number of quotations in his budget speech...

"Gone are those days when using quotes brought good results. Now you need to put only 'Yes', 'No' or 'Tick marks' in the answer script," the Opposition lawmaker pointed out.

BNP deputy Afzal H Khan said, people often asked him why he was missing from the TV programme on the parliamentary proceedings and why he did not speak in the House.

"People knew me when I used to present TV news," he said and explained his disappearance from the parliament news as he was opposed to the unhealthy practice of getting the floor.

Disclosing that he secured first-class-second, Afzal Khan called the first-class-first result-obtaining finance minister his "guru". But, Khan blamed the minister for lacking patriotism.

Injunction on construction of storm sewerage vacated

The High Court by two judgements vacated the order of injunction on implementation of the Storm Water Drainage Improvement Project through the DIT Extension Road and Motijheel Commercial Area.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice M M Hoque and Justice Md Hassan Ameen on June 24 also discharged the rules issued upon two writ petitions of one Azhar Rahman filed challenging the government order of eviction and a RAJUK order not to construct building on the acquired land.

To remove the water-stagnation the government took the project allocating its estimated cost of Tk 450 crore one-third of which was received from the Asian Development Bank and the implementation of the project was going on through the land acquired earlier for development work of the capital city.

As the writ petitioner claiming the title of a portion of the acquired land tried to construct a building thereon the government served an eviction notice on him.

Challenging the eviction notice, he filed a writ petition upon which the HC on July 5, 1995 issued a rule nisi on the government and an order of injunction.

After the injunction order as he further took attempt to construct his building, the RAJUK prevented him from doing that. Then he filed another writ petition upon which the HC on October 3, 1996 also issued rule nisi and an order of injunction.

Advocate Habibur Rahman Sharif moved for the writ petitioner, while Attorney General K S Nabi was assisted by Deputy Kaisaruddin Ahmed.

None of the family members of Dr Rahman, a teacher of Social Welfare Department, was in the house adjacent to the hall. A case was filed with Ramna police.

The six Rohingya refugees, rescued by BDR after the boats capsized early yesterday morning, were handed over to police.

The Rohingyas were crossing the Naaf river from Myanmar to enter Bangladesh, BDR sources said.

"Monno is not a land defaulter. He built the industry through his personal initiative. So you should give all cooperation, the minister told the labourers.

The minister also assured them that none would be terminated during the period of closure.

Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu and a number of Juba League leaders also visited the factory site yesterday afternoon.

Harunur Rashid Monno is a BNP MP from Dharmra. According to the Dharmra police station eight cases were filed, seven by the factory owners and one by the OC of Dharmra thana. No case was filed by the labour leaders.

Kandupatti eviction Judges differ on writ's maintainability

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday gave a split judgement in the writ petition challenging the eviction of the sex-workers from Kandupatti brothel.

A two-member bench of HC unanimously declared the eviction illegal but the 2nd Judge of the bench gave a dissenting judgement discharging the rule on the question of maintainability of the writ petition.

Justice Md Mozammel Hoque, the presiding judge, by his judgement made the rule absolute with some specific findings and directions to the government. Justice Md Hassan Ameen in his judgement held that the eviction of the sex-workers from Kandupatti is illegal and their constitutional rights have been violated.

Due to the dissenting judgement, the records of the case will be placed before the Chief Justice for appointment of a third judge whose opinion, to be made after further hearing of the case, agreeing with either of the two judges, will be the final judgement.

Justice Md Mozammel Hoque said, "Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, humanitarian aspect thereto, constitutional and legal rights of the people, convenience and inconvenience of the surrounding people of the area Kandupatti, social merits and demerits of the case and failure of the law-enforcing agencies to protect the life and properties of the citizens, I am of the view that ends of justice will be met if I make the following declarations in the instant case."

He made three declarations. In the first declaration he held that the sex-workers were illegally and forcibly evicted from their respective houses and the law-enforcing agencies totally failed to discharge their legal duties towards the citizens by not giving legal protection to the people of the aforesaid profession in Kandupatti.

Justice M M Hoque by his second declaration directed the concerned ministries and offices of the government to earmark a specified, separate and distinct area for permanent rehabilitation of the sex-workers of Kandupatti without causing any harm to any other class of people.

By the way of mandatory injunction, he finally, as a matter of stop-gap arrangement, directed the government to restore possession of the evicted sex-workers immediately to their previous houses at Kandupatti for a short and temporary period till those people are rehabilitated in the earmarked area to be selected by the relevant government authorities.

By the third declaration Justice M M Hoque also directed the officer in-charge, Kotwali Police Station, Dhaka to start cases under the FIRs recorded according to the written complaints of 14 sex-workers of Kandupatti.

The writ petition was filed by Sultana F Nahar, a practising advocate of the Supreme Court and a human rights worker.

Advocate M I Faruqui assisted by Advocate M Salimullah moved for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Kawsaruddin Ahmad represented the government.

Cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 1.75 lakh were stolen from the house of a teacher of Dhaka University on the campus on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Miscarants broke into the house of Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, a house tutor of Mukti-joddha Ziaur Rahman Hall, and took away the valuables, including 25 tolas of gold ornaments.

None of the family members of Dr Rahman, a teacher of Social Welfare Department, was in the house adjacent to the hall. A case was filed with Ramna police.

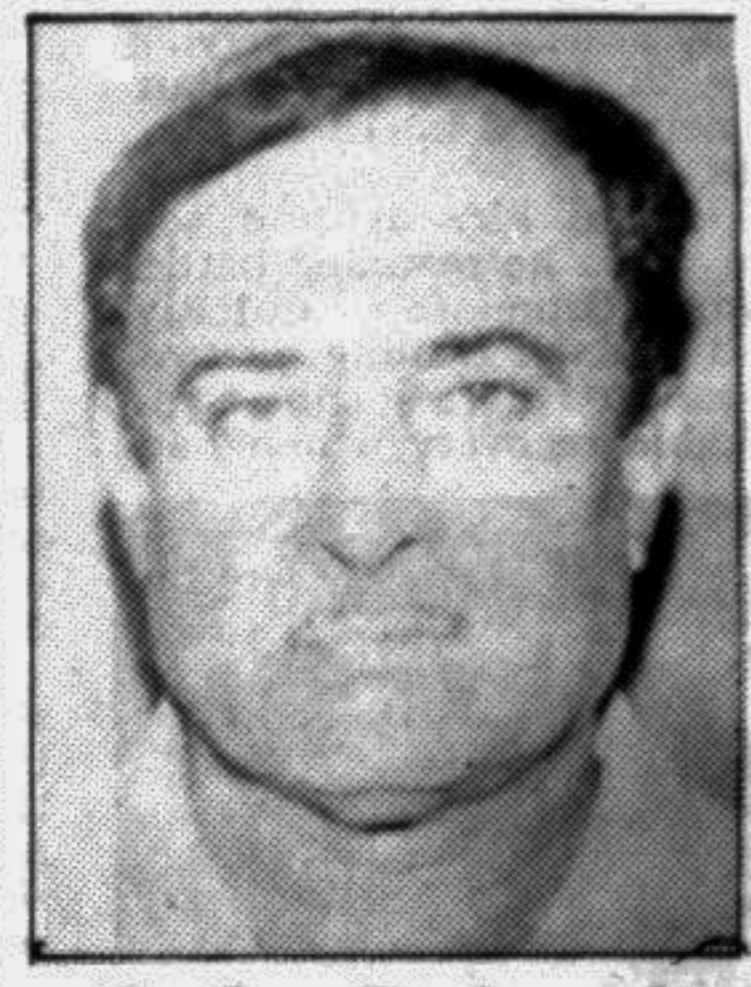
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Blender with mill Transcom Electronics Limited Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets



Gafur Balooch dead

By Sports Reporter

Former national football coach Gafur Balooch breathed his last in a city hospital yesterday morning. He was 65.

The Baluchistan-born national defender of the early sixties, who was wedded to football since his tender age, died in the lap of his friend, Javed Mohiuddin, at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dharmra.

His name-e-janaza was held in the premises of the Brothers Union Club, where he spent the prime time of his coaching career. He was buried at the Gopibagh graveyard where some of his friends and fans were present.

His qul khwani will be held at the Brothers Union Club after Asr prayers on Saturday. As a defender of the Karachi Kickers, Gafur first came to Dhaka way back in 1958 and soon felling love with this country.

The defender, known to his fans as the Chinese Wall, played for the Dhaka Wanderers and EPIDC.

But Gafur seized centre stage of local football as the coach of the Brothers Union. He transformed the Third Division outfit into an awesome third-force in the elite group in late seventies.

Under his guidance, a bunch of young players like Wasim, Selim, Bablu, Mohsin, Lovlu and Salam dominated the Dhaka football.

Besides, he was also a coach of the Dhaka Wanderers Club, Mukti-joddha Sangsad Kriya Chakra and in between, he once shouldered the coaching responsibility of the national team that took part in the Quid-e-Azam Tournament in Pakistan in 1982.

But the unsung mentor of our football sank into oblivion once he had hung up his hat. In his days of retirement, he had virtually lived on the generosity of his friends and fans.

His contribution to the Bangladesh football brought him neither recognition nor any reward from the sport's ruling body and the football federation. He did a lot for our football but got nothing in return.

Meanwhile, different sports federations and clubs have expressed their condolences on the death of Gafur and prayed for the salvation of the departed, soul.

Budget discussion

From page 1

sources Minister Abdur Razzak said the government put the first step towards social security by making budgetary provision for pension for the elderly citizens.

Razzak said the proposed budget provided enough protection to domestic industry while reduced duties on many of the essential items, capital goods and machinery.

BNP leader Jamiruddin Sir-car criticised the proposed budget for what he said its "lack of direction". He underlined the need for appointing more judges for strengthening the judiciary.

State Minister for Jute A K Fayezul Huq termed the budget as "pro-people". He observed that the jute sector had incurred a total loss of 600 crore in 24 years, of which 413 crore was lost during the BNP's rule only.

The House was adjourned by Rahmat Ali, who presided over the latter part of the evening session at 10:35 pm till 10:30 am today.

Shibir activist arrested in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, June 25: Police arrested Masum, a Shibir activist, this evening.

He was injured in an attack on Rajshahi university campus yesterday noon. The Islamic Chhatra Shibir condemned the arrest and demanded his immediate release.

4 boys rescued

From page 1

age as it did not tally with their appearance. Interrogations have revealed that the ring leader of the operation was Zakir Hossain, a resident of Comilla in Bangladesh.

Zakir was found carrying a copy of a visa granted to him as a camelman. There was an endorsement on passport about a boy whom he claimed to be his son.

But, the difference between the age of the child as mentioned in the passport and his appearance made the police suspicious.

Another woman Rehana, wife of Abdul Rashid and resident of Comilla in Bangladesh, was accompanied by three boys, aged six to ten years.

She claimed that the boys were her sons. However, there were erasing marks on the section where the boys' age was endorsed in Rehana's passport, the report said.

The interrogation of the boys revealed that Rehana had left her husband and was being taken to Sharjah by one Moynul Hossain, a resident of Dhaka, the Pioneer said.

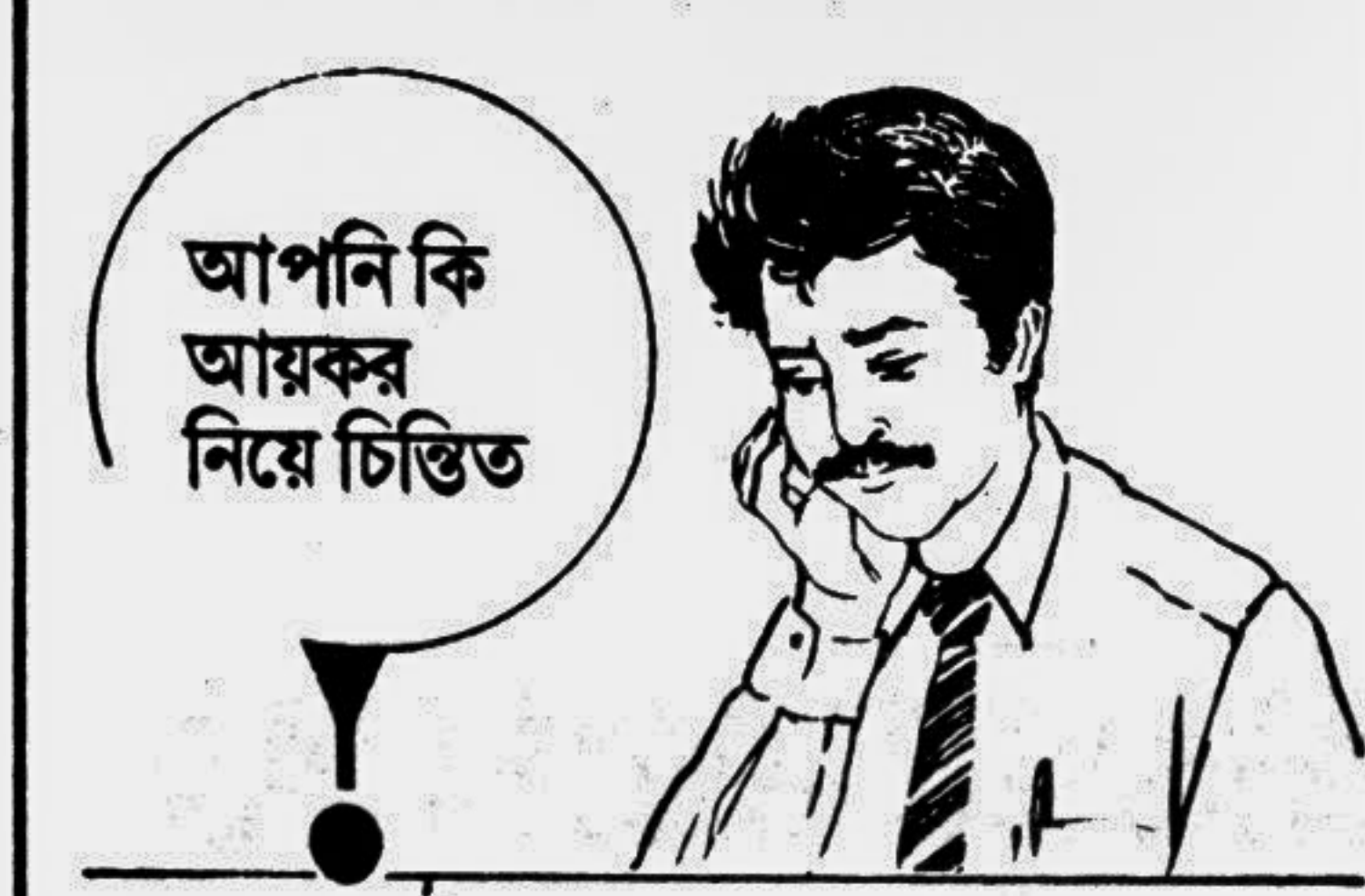
Police suspect that Rehana may have been sold by her husband, along with the children, to Moynul Hossain and the group was taking the boys to the Gulf for camel racing.

The report said that the group had come to India by road, via Jessore check post on April 16. In Delhi they had stayed for few days in Nizamuddin area to arrange for the visa and the tickets and were planning to fly to Sharjah.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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৩০শে জুন সমাগত



আপনি কি আয়কর নিয়ে চিন্তিত? ১. We stand by our story. ২. Our story dealt with the fact of EBL's letter sent to banks, and not with the dispute between EBL and BEXIMCO, which you claim to be sub-judice. ৩. About verifying the story, we did so with several banks all of whom acknowledged receipt of the letter which was dealt with in our story.

BEXIMCO

From page 1

you a party to the contempt proceedings and also take other legal steps against you, your newspaper and its publisher."

We would, like to add that we consider the threat of contempt proceedings as an attempt to intimidate the free press and create obstacle in the way of public's right to know the truth about important financial matters which are in public interest.

We have sent reply to the above mentioned legal notice through our lawyer in which we have stated our decision to contest any contempt charge that may be brought against us.

We conclude by assuring our valued readers and the members of the public that no amount of intimidation will prevent us from upholding the public's right to know, people's right to information, and the freedom of the press. —Editor

Two burnt to death

From page 1

two different stories. "I was working in my shop when I heard a group of about twenty people shouting, catch them, catch them. Then I saw three men, one elderly and two aged between 20 to 25, being beaten mercilessly," said Kuddus Miah.

Another man, narrated the story to the Home Minister when he visited the spot at 9-05 pm. He said three men came to a NGO school nearby and volunteered to bless some children with their "spiritual power". Some passers-by challenged them. The passers-by then allowed them to leave in a scooter after apparently being convinced of their identity.

The scooter started moving on the Progoti Swarani, some 25 young men chased them. In a bid to escape, the scooter took a left turn and entered a small street known as Niramoy Pharmacy street. About a minute later, the scooter drove off the scene while several hundred people punched on the three men.

Gulshan thana OC Mostafa said, at around 11 am, he asked another police patrol van to help their colleagues who desperately asked for help. "I rushed to the spot at 11:20 and found myself being at least ten thousand people. The mob beat everybody and we took a side leaving the three half-dead men inside the van, he said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা সমীপে বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানিকারক সমিতি (বিজিএমইএ) এর পক্ষ থেকে ০.২৫% উৎস কর ও রপ্তানি আয়ের উপর আরোপিত আয়কর সম্পূর্ণভাবে রহিত করার আকুল আবেদন