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Ctg businessman rescued after gunfight with miscreants

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: The abducted businessman, Ashraf Ali, 45, was rescued this morning by police after half an hour-long gunfight with the armed gang known as Iskander Bahini at Hingla village under Raozan thana.

But no casualty was reported from either side during the gunfight between Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police and the Iskander Bahini.

DB police raided the house of one Shamsul Alam at Hingla village at around 10:30 am today where the victim was kept hostage since January 6 demanding a ransom of Tk 14 lakh.

Assistant Commissioner of DB Atiqur Rahman in a press release said that the raid was made at the hideout of Iskander Bahini at Raozan after tactfully arresting one of its members Zafar alias Nasir. Nasir had come to Nasirabad to collect a cheque book from the victim's wife following an earlier telephonic conversation.

As per confession of arrested Nasir, the DB contingent went to Hingla village of Raozan. But sensing the presence of police the terrorists opened fire. Police also returned the fire which continued for about half an hour.

At one stage, the terrorists fled into the jungles of the hills at Hingla leaving behind the victim.

BTV to telecast live President's JS speech

The Bangladesh Television will telecast live the speech of President Shahabuddin Ahmed from Parliament on January 14, the opening day of the winter session, reports UNB.

As the timing of the President's speech will coincide with the final match of the Independence Cup Cricket Tournament, the BTV will not be able to telecast the match during the President's address at Parliament.

However, the BTV will telecast the recorded portion of the match the same day at some other time for viewers, said an official handout.

Gold bars worth Tk 1 cr seized at Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 11: The Detective Branch of police seized 102 pieces of gold bars worth about Tk one crore from Chowdhury area of the town this afternoon.

Acting on a tip-off, the DB team chased a private car from Sylhet Osmany Airport at about 3:30 pm and intercepted it at Chowdhury area.

The team arrested two persons and seized gold bars weighing 1020 grams from them.

The arrested were identified as Mahfuzur Rahman, son of Enam Chowdhury of village Barohat under Jakiganj thana and Kamaluddin, son of Aminul Haque of village Kachu under Feni district.

The DB officials suspected that the gold bars were brought from Dubai.

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Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
12	12	5-20	5-34
13	13	5-20	5-35
14	14	5-21	5-35

India in Independence Cup final Azhar's hefty slap

Sports Reporter

Sachin Tendulkar hit a majestic half-century, took three brilliant catches and a crucial return catch to steer India to the finals of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup, slapping a 18-run defeat on arch-rivals Pakistan at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The 24-year-old right-hander, opening the innings with Saurav Ganguly, scored a blistering 67 off only 44 balls to lay the foundation of an imposing Indian total of 245 for seven in

a reduced 37-over-a-side affair.

Together with skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, who celebrated his first ton against Pakistan, Tendulkar shared 98 runs for the second wicket after the blood and thunder second match of the tri-nation tourney got off to a delayed start due to bad light.

The kamikaze kid then pulled off two stunning catches to dismiss dashing opener Shahid Khan Afridi and left-handed Amir Sohail to put a

spoke in the Pakistan spanner. And as if it was not enough, Tendulkar then sent to pavilion a menacingly-poised Inzamam-ul-Haq, who was about to turn the table around with three successive sixes.

After removing dangerous Inzamam, then at 77, Sachin clung on to a well-judged catch of Azhar Mahmood at deep square-leg to effectively dismiss the hopes of Pakistan who, facing a daunting task of scoring 6.64 runs per over,

folded their innings at 227 for eight.

It was a good toss to lose for Azharuddin, who after being put into bat by his Pakistani counterpart, sent Tendulkar to open the innings with left-handed Ganguly.

The little master, racing on to complete his fastest fifty in one-day international, off only 30 balls, struck 11 sweetly-timed boundaries, which included a quartet in Azhar Mahmood's one prodigal over.

With Tendulkar in frenzy with a flurry of shots much to the delight of a full-house crowd at the Dhaka Stadium, Indian 100 came in only in 11.3 overs.

It was Tendulkar's second consecutive half-century in the tournament. He was eventually gone in the 17th over, but his side was already comfortably placed with 112 for two in 16.5 overs.

Azharuddin then found a wily partner in Navjot Sidhu to guide India cross the 200-mark before the latter departed for 36. Sidhu, run out for a duck without playing a single ball in the inaugural match against Bangladesh the previous day, clubbed three fours in his 43-ball campaign at the crease.

Dropped by Rashid Latif on 79, Azhar completed his fifth one-day hundred, exactly hundred it was, in the final over before Saqlain Mushtaq had the right-hander caught by Afridi.

The Hyderabad-born right hander clouted seven fours in his watchful knock.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, capturing the wickets of Tendulkar and Azhar, returned most successful among the Pakistani bowlers with four for 41 runs in his quota of eight overs.

Pakistan were off to a disastrous start losing four wickets for 62 runs. Afridi, the world record holder for the fastest century in limited-over cricket, scored only five before new-ball bowler Mohanty had the hard-hitter caught by Tendulkar in the first slip.

Make-shift opener Ijaz, who scored a breezy 18 off 11 balls, See Page 12 Col 1



TONGUE TELLS: Azharuddin rarely had it so good in the recent times. The Indian captain was among the runs for the successive day in the Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium. Here he sweeps leggie Manzoor on his way to first one day ton against Pakistan. — Star photo

Saga of Radio-TV autonomy-V Much ado about nothing?

By Reaz Ahmad

Members of the commission that formulated the report on Radio-TV autonomy expressed utter disappointment at the non-implementation of their report even some six months after its submission to the Prime Minister.

"It was a team's love-labour sadly wasted", observed M Asafuddin, Chairman of the 16-men Autonomy Commission, expressing a deep sense of frustration, that also exists among its team members.

The commission was set up in September, 1996 at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in line with her party's much-propagated election pledge and repeated commitment to people to give autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television (BTV). The UNDP provided funds to facilitate the commission members' foreign trips that helped them to learn about other countries' experience of media autonomy. At the end of several foreign trips and a series of discussions and consultations the

commission submitted a detailed report to the Prime Minister in August last year.

After all these thoughtful and expensive exercises, now the question that is in most of the commission members' mind is - was it all a mockery. "As if the commission was never there and the report, we produced, was never written... No discussion, no consultation, no nothing", one commission member complained in frustration.

One said, "We are very worried that the report has been buried by people who do not want changes". He said that a curtain of secrecy had been imposed on the report and many of the commission members were not even provided with copies of their own work.

Asafuddin, a former bureaucrat and a well known artist, spoke out his mind to The Daily Star to say with a note of sadness, "An assignment was given. We did it successfully. Ever since we submitted the report, I have not heard

anything regarding its implementation."

When asked why he was saying sadly wasted, commission chairman said, "Was the report we produced so bad that it was not worthy of being published, not to speak of its implementation?"

Asafuddin recalled with deep regret how his commission was "cold-shouldered" while preparing its report. "Now it seems that the report is being kept in cold storage," he added.

"After repeated invitations to present himself before the commission for giving his views as the minister concerned, the State Minister for Information did not turn up. Instead, the then information secretary was sent to represent him before the commission", said Asafuddin.

He questioned the logic behind keeping the report "confidential". "I, along with my prudent colleagues in the commission, tried to put our best possible efforts in preparing the report. I have not heard

Doctors need a change of heart

By Naimul Haq



A critically injured patient at the emergency wing of DMCH. — Star photo

During a visit to the country's busiest and biggest hospital on Tuesday last, this correspondent found that both the emergency medical officers (EMO) were being entertained by a representative from a reputed drug manufacturing company while patients waited outside.

The doctors were seen busy talking with the company official while patients requiring emergency treatment were moaning outside Room Number 3, on the noisy corridor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The official had come to brief the doctors about the use of some new drugs.

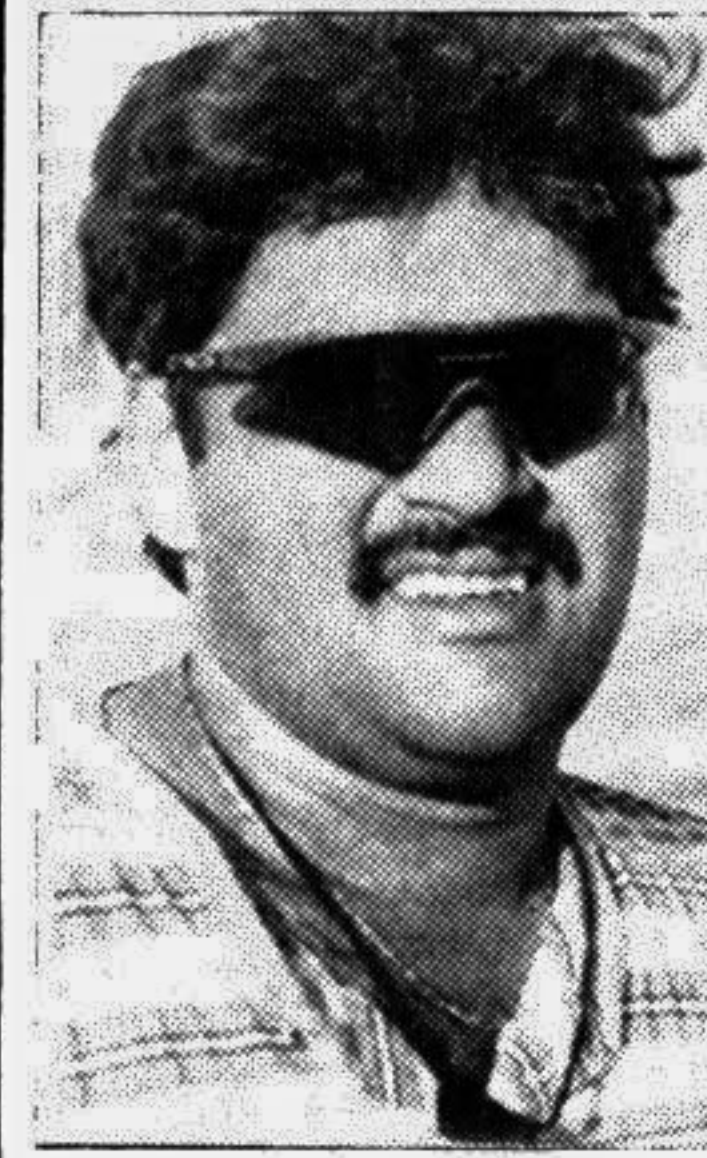
Asked if they were allowed to accept 'sample drugs' and talk with such pharmaceutical company representative during their office hours, one of the doctors said, "Yes, we are. If we are not allowed, how would we be acquainted with new drugs?"

While attendants of patients urged the doctors to come and see patients, they hardly paid any attention. After a short while, one of the doctors went to attend the emergency patients. "How can the authorities possibly allow the doctors to be

See Page 12 Col 8

Hosts fight for final today

Sports Reporter



Akram Khan

Pakistan will take on hosts Bangladesh in a crucial match of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium today.

Weather permitting, the last league match of the week-long tourney will start at 9 in the morning.

The match between the two unequal opponents turned into a very important one as both Pakistan and Bangladesh suffered defeats at the hand of India, who made it to the three-match finals with an 18-run win over their arch-rivals yesterday.

When the fancied former world champions, who won all of their four previous one-day encounters against Bangladesh, will try to extend their winning record to five, Bangladesh, who after their spirited showings against India, will be looking

See Page 12 Col 2



Rashid Latif

Demands of admin cadre sent to JS body for scrutiny

By Special Correspondent

The government yesterday said the demands of the BCS administration cadre have been sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Establishment Ministry for scrutiny 'since it involves interests of all cadre services'.

The government will take necessary steps as per advice of the Standing Committee, an official handout said last night.

It said: "An 'action committee' of BCS (Administration) cadre has announced a programme to hold a rally inside the secretariat tomorrow (Monday) to realise their demands including upgradation of some of their posts... Government officials' holding a rally inside the secretariat is not desirable. Since the government would take necessary steps as per advice of the Parliamentary Standing Committee,

it is hoped that members of any cadre service will stay out of such a rally". Upgradation of 321 posts of civil servants, one of their seven-point demand, was ordered late last month, but was later put on hold amid protests from non-administration cadres.

The action committee has been leading an agitation by administration cadre officials inside the secretariat to press their demands.

Administration cadre officials are scheduled to stage protests before the finance minister's chamber at 10 am today and hold a meeting with him. They accuse the finance ministry of suspending the upgradation, ordered by the prime minister.

Their agitation stirred protests from other cadres in- See Page 12 Col 2

Fire at Joydevpur bazar: Two boys die of suffocation

GAZIPUR, Jan 11: Two teenaged boys died of suffocation during a fire that broke out at Joydevpur Bazar, gutting five shops, including three jewellery shops, early today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Sudev, 15, of Panchdona in Narsingdi and Zahir, 14, of Mirzapur in Tangail districts. Another teenaged boy Karim, also a victim of suffocation, admitted to Kumudini Hospital at Mirzapur in a critical condition.

The three boys, employees of "Priva Jewellers", fell victim to suffocation as the shop was closed during the fire. The bodies of Sudev and Zahir were sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Witnesses said the blaze started at about 2:30 am from a shop of the bazar and soon engulfed the other shops.

Firefighters from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the flame after an hour long hectic efforts. The extent of damage was said to be more than Tk 10 lakh.

Talks today with Petronas-Mobil: No agenda

Star Report

Malaysian company Petronas and its partner Mobil of the US will hold a meeting today with the government, apparently without any specific agenda.

This meeting was earlier scheduled between the government and three companies, Tullow of Ireland and Petronas-Mobil, over partnership for oil and gas exploration in Block 11. But Tullow's representatives See Page 12 Col 1

Occidental's prayer for extension Govt urged to seek legal advice on fate of PSC

By Sharier Khan

The Petrobangla sent a letter to the Energy Ministry yesterday suggesting that the government should seek legal advice on the termination or extension of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the Occidental for blocks 13 and 14.

As per its provisions, the PSC was supposed to be terminated 'naturally' yesterday as the US company failed to fulfil its work commitment in the two blocks within the stipulated initial exploration period, sources said.

The US company has two PSCs with the government, one for Block 12 and the other for blocks 13 and 14. It is already enjoying a three-year extension of the PSC for Block 12.

Sources said a move to extend the PSC has been initiated and some people in the upper tier of the administration are very much sympathetic to Occidental regarding extension of the contract.

As the termination deadline was drawing near, Occidental

had initially sought a one-year extension of its contract. But on January 6, Occidental sent a fresh letter to Petrobangla praying for a full 3-year extension.

Occidental has been lobbying for about a month to stop the termination, sources said. "It has managed to gain sympathy from the top level of the See Page 12 Col 5

48-hr transport strike in 18 routes from today

JHENIDAH, Jan 11: Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Association (BRTWA), South-western zone, has called a 48-hour token strike on 18 routes to realise their seven-point demand, reports UNB.

The strike begins at 6 am tomorrow and will continue till 6 am Wednesday, BRTWA sources said.

Their demands include, release of three workers arrested in connection with a night coach dacoity, deployment of security guards in night coaches, dissolution of Narail-Moheshpur-Kushia Transport Workers Union and steps to ease congestion at Aricha ghat.

Businessman robbed of Tk 5 lakh

KHULNA, Jan 11: A businessman was robbed of Tk 5 lakh in Daulatpur area of the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a group of miscreants snatched away the money from the businessman at gun point while he was going to a bank.

A case was lodged with, Daulatpur police.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

আপনি জানেন কি?
নতুন শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ সম্পূর্ণ
কর মুক্ত করা হয়েছে।

- আপনার অপ্রদর্শিত আয় (Undisclosed income) নতুন শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ করা হলে কর বিভাগ কর্তৃক কোন প্রশ্ন ব্যতীতই তা গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং এর জন্য কোন কর প্রদান করতে হবে না।
- ১লা জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৭ইং হতে ৩১শে ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৯ইং-এর মধ্যে নতুন শিল্পে বিনিয়োগের জন্য এই সুবিধা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।
- কর মুক্তির জন্য শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক শিল্প হিসাবে ঘোষিত খাতে নতুন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠায় বিনিয়োগ করতে হবে।
- বিনিয়োগের উপর ৭.৫% হারে কর প্রদান করে কর অবকাশের সুবিধাও গ্রহণ করা যেতে পারে। তবে কর অবকাশ সুবিধা পেতে হলে উৎপাদন প্রক্রিয়ায় নিয়োজিত নতুন শিল্প অথবা ভৌত অবকাঠামো সুবিধা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বা পর্যটন শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ করতে হবে।
- ইতোমধ্যে নতুন শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ করা হয়ে থাকলে এবং তা দাবিকৃত রিটার্ন বা সম্পদ বিবরণীতে প্রদর্শন করা না হয়ে থাকলে বিনিয়োগকারীগণ সংশ্লিষ্ট রিটার্ন বা সম্পদ বিবরণী দাখিলের মাধ্যমে তা প্রদর্শন করতে পারেন।
- নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে ভবিষ্যতে বিনিয়োগ করবেন এমন অস্বীকারসহ ভবিষ্যত বিনিয়োগের অংকও দেখানো যেতে পারে।
- এ বিষয়ে আরও কোন তথ্য জানতে চাইলে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের প্রথম সচিব (আয়কর নীতি) ফোন - ৯৩৪১৫৪৮ অথবা দ্বিতীয় সচিব (কর-৭) ফোন - ৪০৬৫৯৩-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।
- উদ্যোক্তাগণ নিম্নলিখিত অপ্রদর্শিত আয় নতুন শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠায় বিনিয়োগ করে দেশের শিল্পায়নে ত্বরান্বিত করতে পারেন।

জিএফপি-৫৭৭-১১/১
জি-৬৪

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড