

BUY NOW — PAY LATER

Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
USA

Freezers
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 86198

PM's directive to ensure uninterrupted power supply

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the officials and agencies concerned to take all possible measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply throughout the country, reports BSS.

The directive came during an unscheduled meeting held at Ganabhaban yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting focused on overall power situation in the country and discussed the ways to overcome it.

Prof Rafiqul Islam, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr SA Samad, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Toufique-Elahi, Secretary, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, and Nooruddin M Kamal, Chairman, Power Development Board attended the meeting.

Samad produced in court, confesses killing of Rubi

By Staff Correspondent

Samad, the prime accused in the murder of housewife Rubi, gave a judicial statement yesterday confessing that he killed Rubi in her flat with the help of the two gatekeepers early morning Friday.

Our court correspondent reports, the Detective Branch of police produced Samad before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at about 12:30 pm yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdus Salam Mia took about four hours to record the statement of Samad under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Later, Samad was sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

See Page 12 Col 6

Gayoom postpones visit to India, Pakistan

COLOMBO, June 2: Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, head of a South Asian grouping, has indefinitely postponed planned visits to Pakistan and India after their nuclear tests, officials said today, reports AFP.

Gayoom was due to arrive in Islamabad today and travel on to New Delhi for talks with Indian leaders.

Inside Today Article

Pakistan's Nuclear Response—What Next?

Column : By Enam A Chaudhury
Page 4

Focus

Role of Ombudsman and rules of natural justice
Page 5

46 countries ask India, Pakistan Stop testing N-arms, join disarmament

GENEVA, June 2: Forty-six countries joined today in demanding that rival neighbors India and Pakistan immediately cease testing nuclear arms and join in the global move to eliminate the weapons, reports AP.

"The testing of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan is totally irreconcilable with claims by both countries that they are committed to nuclear disarmament," said a joint statement.

Islamic countries and others, while expressing concern about the tests, also criticized the five nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and urged them to drop their opposition to proposed negotiations for the scheduled elimination of their atomic arsenals.

India said if the five powers had accepted its previous attempts to set up global nuclear disarmament, "We need not have gone in for our current testing program."

The five were among the countries that backed the joint statement before an emergency meeting of the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament.

It said India's and Pakistan's

tests "blatantly undermine" attempts to halt nuclear proliferation and threaten to undermine efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The statement, read by Clive Pearson, New Zealand's ambassador to the conference, said India's and Pakistan's explosions in May were "provocative and dangerous acts."

"Indulging in competitive

maneuvers ... belongs to a by-gone age," he said. "It is now crucial that India and Pakistan announced immediately a cessation to all further testing of these weapons, renounce their nuclear weapons programmes and sign and ratify unconditionally the comprehensive test ban treaty."

Also supporting the demand were Japan, South Korea, South Africa and European and Latin American nations, but conspicuously missing were Middle Eastern countries.

Iran said it viewed the developments with "deep concern," but also urged the declared nuclear powers "to fulfill their commitment to nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework."

Meanwhile, bucking international criticism, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee asked the five declared nuclear weapons powers to get rid of their atomic arsenal rather than preach to India, which he said went nuclear only because of threats to its security.

"Let us see if they heed our call," Vajpayee told a gathering of people who came to his house in New Delhi.

BNP threatens to boycott JS budget session

BNP yesterday accused the government of violating the four-point agreement and threatened to boycott Parliament, reports UNB.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the Prime Minister, Speaker, Chief Whip and ruling party negotiator Mohammad Nasim were yesterday informed in writing of the violation of the March 2 agreement.

Answering to repeated queries, Prof Chowdhury said the BNP parliamentary party will take decision about joining the budget session of parliament after reviewing the gov-

ernment steps. Parliament is scheduled to begin June 10.

Accusing the government of violating the March 2 accord, he said inclusion of BNP members in the parliamentary standing committees were not in accordance with the list submitted to the Speaker.

Representation of BNP in at least 12 committees were not in accordance with the party nomination. They have changed and chosen the BNP members without consulting us, added the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

He said Mohammad Nasim announced in Parliament on March 31 that Manik Mia Avenue was opened for public meeting. But the government

and the City Corporation as well repeatedly denied to the BNP the opportunity to hold public meeting there.

Prof Chowdhury accused the Speaker of failing to conduct the House "neutrally and constructively."

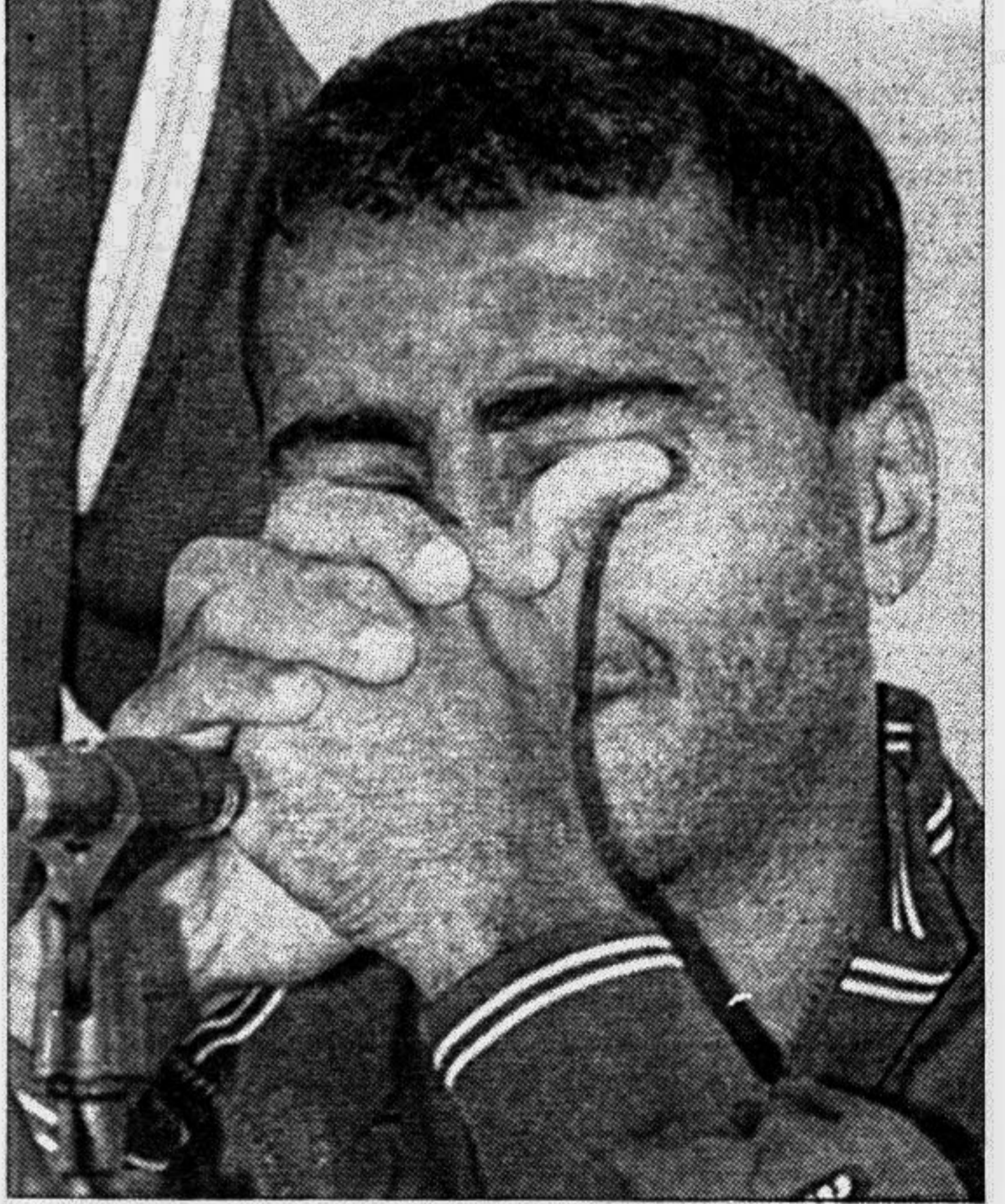
He regretted that none of the cases against the BNP leaders and activists has been withdrawn as agreed by the government. The March 2 agreement stipulated that all political cases against them will be withdrawn by March 31. This is a gross violation of the agreement, said Prof Chowdhury.

Prof Chowdhury also accused that opposition views within and outside parliament

See Page 12 Col 7

WC without Romario

France '98
COUNTDOWN
7
Days Away



LESIGNY, France, June 2 (Reuters/AP): Brazilian striker Romario was dropped from his country's World Cup squad today because team officials said he had not recovered from a calf muscle injury.

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo said Romario had failed fitness tests over the weekend and would be replaced in the World Cup squad by midfielder Emerson who plays for Bayer Leverkusen, while alongside the new starter and two-time FIFA Player-of-the-Year Ronaldo, will be Bebeto, Romario's partner on the '94 team.

Time ran out for Romario in his race to recover from an injury apparently incurred while he was playing "foot-volleyball" on a Rio de Janeiro beach last month.

Zagallo told a news conference that Romario was still suffering pain in his calf and that it could take between 10 days and a month to heal.

Zagallo waited till the last

See Page 12 Col 8

Romario breaks down in tears during a press conference yesterday when it was declared that he is out of France '98 because of injury.

BNP's long march towards CHT to begin from Paltan Maidan

By Staff Correspondent

BNP yesterday announced detail programmes for its June 9 long march towards the Chittagong Hill Tracts demanding scrapping of the laws enacted for implementation of the CHT accord.

The long march will start at 7 am from Paltan Maidan in the city. The marchers will reach Chittagong city by various transports and pass the night there.

During their journey to Chittagong, the marchers from Dhaka will be aided by others who will join them at different points.

See Page 12 Col 8

Writ challenging 4 acts on CHT not moved

A writ petition challenging the four acts on Chittagong Hill Tracts was not moved in the High Court yesterday, reports UNB.

The writ challenging the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Act 1998 and three Hill Districts Local Government Council (Amendment) Acts 1998 was filed by BNP leader Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia on Monday.

It was scheduled to be moved in the court of Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice

See Page 12 Col 6

Swapan gets top prize, feels insecure

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 2: Shaifur Rahman Swapan, 22, has won the first prize of Tk 40 lakh in the Red Crescent lottery draw held on Sunday.

Third among the five sons and two daughters of his parents, Swapan passed HSC examinations in 1996. He set up a readymade garments shop at the Madhuban market in Sylhet town about two months ago.

He bought the winning ticket from a street vendor in the town about one and a half months back, Swapan told this correspondent.

He plans to visit some foreign countries and then settle down to running the business, Swapan said about his future plans.

See Page 12 Col 5

Chittagong Stock Exchange 'Automated trading to reduce manipulation'

Star Business Report

In a ground-breaking development, the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) yesterday formally launched its automated, screen-based trading facility.

The new system will enable investors from three major cities — Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet — to do real-time on-line trading through a state-of-the-art computer network.

The CSE became the third exchange in South Asia to have a wide area network out of the 31 bourses, after the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange of India.

"This is a historic moment for the Bangladesh capital market," said CSE President Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, after 'logging on' at 2:01 pm at its Dhaka office in Kawran Bazar.

"Now the CSE is on the way to fully abolish its trading floor. Technologically it is now a globally tradable exchange," the CSE President said. "The country's second bourse became first in introducing the computerised trading within three years of its birth."

Automation has been the focal point of CSE's vision from the very beginning, since its inception in 1995, he said.

See Page 12 Col 1

Shazneen murder CID gets 'useful information'

By Staff Correspondent

Carpetter Shoni Ram, one of the accused in Shazneen murder, was placed on a fresh two-day remand by the CMM's court yesterday for further interrogation.

Maid Parvin who was under CID custody till yesterday is likely to be arrested today for her alleged involvement in the killing, according to sources.

Parvin had started working as a domestic help at the Gulshan residence of Shazneen's father Latifur Rahman few days before the murder.

Meanwhile, contractor Hasan, one of the six accused in the murder, will be produced before the CMM's court today.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of Latifur

See Page 12 Col 8

Land grabbing in Uttara—IV Encroachment is visible with extended walls, signboards along the Lake

By Morshed Ali Khan

The water of Uttara Lake has become totally polluted emitting foul odors and posing serious health hazard in the vicinity.

Spot investigation reveals that the pollution has occurred due to stagnation of the lake water, years of neglect and dumping of sewerage from the residential areas into the lake.

The natural lake presently stretches over an area of two kilometres from Uttara Sector-5 towards the north. Earlier the

See Page 12 Col 1



Water of Uttara Lake has become polluted mainly due to flow of sewage into the lake. — Star photo

12 killed, 172 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least 12 people were killed and 172 injured in road accidents in Habiganj, Pabna, Chittagong, Brahmanbaria and Khagrachhari yesterday.

Of them, four were killed in Habiganj, four in Pabna, two in Chittagong and two in Brahmanbaria.

Our Correspondent from Habiganj reports: Four persons were killed and 60 others injured, 13 of them seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Chandpur Tea Garden area under Chunarughat thana yesterday.

Police and eyewitnesses said, the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound passenger bus from Sylhet collided with a Sylhet bound bus from Comilla at about 10:30 am.

Of the dead, two were identified as Bazul Rahman, 45, of village Dandoma under Goungingthana of Sylhet district and Ranu Ara Begum, 55, of Comilla. The identity of two others could not be known immediately.

The seriously injured passengers were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital, Madhabpur Thana Health Complex and Chunarughat Thana Health Complex.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers managed to flee.

Our Pabna Correspondent

See Page 12 Col 3

Rape incident Anticipatory bail of Jinnah, Jotsna cancelled

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday discharged a rule issued earlier by granting anticipatory admission of bail to Dr Jinnah and Jotsna, an avya of a clinic in Myensingh town, both accused in a rape case.

As a result, the ad-interim anticipatory bail granted earlier to them by the High Court has been cancelled, according to a press release issued by The Law Associates.

Dr Jinnah allegedly raped one of his patient's daughter in his private clinic in Myensingh town and he was abated by the Jotsna on January 5.

See Page 12 Col 7

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
উন্নয়ন শাখা
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ বেসরকারী মালিকানায় বেতার কেন্দ্র স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা।

তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক বেসরকারী মালিকানায় বেতার কেন্দ্র স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা সংক্রান্ত সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি গত ১৫-০৫-৯৮ইং তারিখে ইতেফাক, জনকণ্ঠ, অবজারভার এবং ১৮-০৫-৯৮ইং তারিখে দৈনিক সংবাদ, ভোরের কাগজ ও ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হয়। উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুসারে টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ৭-৬-৯৮ইং সন্ধ্যা ১১ ঘটিকা ছিল। এখন উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তির সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র ১৫-৬-৯৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১.৩০ ঘটিকায় নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে প্রদর্শন করা হবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১২ ঘটিকায় গৃহীত প্রস্তাবসমূহের মধ্যে শুধু কারিগরি প্রস্তাবসমূহ দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণকারীদের সমুখে খোলা হবে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন।

২। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিসীম থাকবে।

মোঃ মোকহেদ আলী পিকে
সহকারী সচিব
তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
উবন-৪, কক্ষ নং-৮০৫
ফোনঃ ৮৬৭৮৫৭

ক্রিএপি-১২৫২৪-২/৬
জি-১২৪০

Voters' ID card : Photograph taking may start in Aug

By Nurul Kabir

The Election Commission has planned to resume its programme of taking photographs for voters ID cards from mid-August but it is still undecided who will do the job.

The ID cards will contain major information including the voters name, father's or husband's name, age, profession and address.

Asked who will take the photographs, Abu Hena said, "The EC secretariat will seek legal opinion of the Law Ministry to examine whether the EC can enter into new contract with the old vendors."

"I have ordered the department concerned to clear all the dues to the vendors by this month," the CEC said.

Some 66 vendors took photographs of about 25 per cent of eligible voters. But the process was stopped a couple of years ago following Planning Commission's objection to it on some grounds including allegation of corruption.

The Planning Commission had also said that a sensitive matter like voters ID cards should get approval by the new government headed by Sheikh Hasina.

A probe body eventually found no irregularities. The government also gave the 'go ahead'. Then the ECNEC gave the fresh deadline for the ID card project until June 1999, with a revised budget of Tk 195 crore including Tk 15 crore for data base on the voters.

Meanwhile, the contract

See Page 12 Col 4

রঙানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো কর্তৃক টেরী টাওয়ার উপখাতে কোটা বরাদ্দে অনিয়ম

বর্তমানে বাংলাদেশের রঙানী আয়ের সিংহ ভাগই আসে তেরী পোশাক ও বস্ত্র উপখাতের রঙানী আয় থেকে। বাংলাদেশের বস্ত্র রঙানী শিল্পের বর্তমান অবস্থান সন্তোষজনক নয়। উন্নয়ন সহায়তার জন্য কোটার মাধ্যমে বাজার সংরক্ষণ নীতির কারণে। অতএব কোটা সংরক্ষণ নীতি বাংলাদেশের জন্য প্রধান সহায়ক হিসাবে কাজ করেছে। এ কারণেই সরকার কোটা প্রাপ্তি, কোটা পাওয়া এবং কোটা বরাদ্দে সুবই গুরুত্ব দিয়ে থাকেন। এ বিষয়ে সরকার একটি সুনির্দিষ্ট কোটা নীতি প্রণয়ন করেছেন যা যা রাষ্ট্রপতি কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত। আর এই নীতি বাস্তবায়ন ও বরাদ্দে নিয়োজিত আছে রঙানী উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো।

টেরী-টাওয়ার বস্ত্রখাতের একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য উপখাত। টেরী-টাওয়ার উৎপাদন ও রঙানী শুরু হয়েছে মাত্র কয়েক বৎসর পূর্বে। বর্তমানে এই খাতে সদস্য সংখ্যা ৫৯, ৪২৫০ টাওয়ার লুম। বর্তমানে এইখাতে রঙানী আয় বৎসরে ৩৬২ কোটি টাকা এবং দ্রুত প্রবৃদ্ধির সম্ভাবনা আকাশচুম্বী।

এই টাওয়ার শিল্প কারখানা গুলি আমেরিকাতে বিশেষ শ্রেণীর টাওয়ার রঙানী করে থাকে। ১৯৯১ সনে আমেরিকার উৎপাদনকারী সদস্যগণ সপ টাওয়ার (Cat. 369-S) রঙানীর উপর CVD/Dumping Case করে। টাওয়ার association সদস্যগণ বিদেশী আইনজীবী নিয়োগ করে এবং কোটা টাকা বরাদ্দ করে CVD Case মোকাবেলা করে এবং জয়ী হয় সে কারণে Shop towel Cat. 369-S কোটা অব্যাহত থাকে এবং রঙানী হতে থাকে। আমেরিকার কোটা না পাওয়া গেলে টাওয়ার শিল্পগুলি গড়ে উঠতে পারতো না। আমেরিকাতে ২টি শ্রেণী কোটা (US Cat. 363) টেরী টাওয়ার এবং US Cat. 369-S বর্তমানে US Cat. 363 তে ২.৫ কোটি শিস এবং US Cat. 369-S তে ১৬.৭৫ লক্ষ কোটা বরাদ্দ আছে।

১৯৯৭ কোটা বৎসরে মুক্ত কোটা প্রকৃত উৎপাদন ও রঙানীকারকদের প্রকৃত বিরোধীতা সত্ত্বেও কোটা নীতি বহিষ্কৃত বরাদ্দ দেওয়া হয়েছিল। মুক্ত কোটা বরাদ্দ যাদের দেয়া হয়েছিল তাদের এই শ্রেণীতে মোটেও উৎপাদন ক্ষমতা নাই। ফলশ্রুতিতে তারা বরাদ্দ পাওয়া কোটা বাজারে বিক্রি করে দেয়। ফ্রেডাংশন অবশ্য ১৯৯৭ সালে ঐ সকল কোটা রঙানী করতে ব্যর্থ হয়। পরবর্তীতে তারা পেশাল অনুমতি নিয়ে ১৯৯৮ সালে রঙানী করে। ইহা অত্যন্ত ক্ষতিকারক, কারণ আমরা ১৯৯৭ সনের কোটা রঙানী করতে পারিনি, অর্থাৎ ১৯৯৮ সনের কোটা হতে তা বাদ গেল।

১৯৯৮ সালে একই কারাদায় ডুয়া, বস্ত্র এবং উৎপাদনের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় যন্ত্রপাতি বিহীন প্রতিষ্ঠানকে একটি বিরাট অংশ বরাদ্দ দেওয়া হয়েছে। আচার্যের বিবয় কয়েকটি গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরীও ৩৬০ কোটা বরাদ্দ পেয়েছে। এই অবসরগ্রহণ এবং বরাদ্দ তারা বাজারে কোটা বিক্রয় করতে বাধ্য হবে।

এধরনের অনিয়ম যেমন দেশের সুস্থ রঙানী বাহ্যত করছে তেমনি দেশ রঙানী আয় হতে বঞ্চিত হচ্ছে, আর অন্য দিকে চলছে কোটা ক্রয়-বিক্রয় ব্যবসা। এ ব্যবস্থা চলতে দেওয়া হলে ইউরোপিয় বাজারে GSP নিয়ে যে কেলেঙ্কারী বাংলাদেশকে কলঙ্কিত করেছে আমেরিকাতেও তার পুনরাবৃত্তি হবেই এতে কোন সন্দেহ নেই।

আমরা এই অনিয়মের প্রতিবাদ চাই। সরকারী বিশেষ মহল কেন তার নিজস্ব প্রণীত নীতি ভুল করে সেদিকে সবার সজাগ হতে হবে। আমাদের দাবী কোটা নীতি সঠিক ভাবে মেনে বরাদ্দ দেওয়া হোক। যাদের যে শ্রেণীতে উৎপাদন ক্ষমতা নাই তাদেরকে কোটা দেওয়া বৈধ নয়। সঠিক অনুসন্ধানের মাধ্যমে এই কোটা বরাদ্দ নিশ্চিত করা হোক এটা আমাদের দাবী।

বাংলাদেশ টেরী টাওয়ার এন্ড লিনেন ম্যানুফ্যাকচার্স এন্ড এক্সপোর্টার্স এসোসিয়েশন (বিটিএলএমইএ)