

News

Try tax dodgers

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The panel of speakers, comprising prominent businessmen, economists and academics, also put accent on the proper auditing of funds of the political parties so that black money cannot find its way into politics.

Financial Express editor Moazzem Hossain presented the keynote paper at the roundtable, moderated by the FICCI president, AKM Sham-suddin.

Chairman of Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd, John Neal and American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) president Forrest E Cookson presented supplementary papers.

Kibria said the amount of tax should be determined as per the rules and there should not be any scope for negotiation on tax payables.

He pointed out that while foreign firms are paying the lion's share of tax many local companies are evading payments.

"Income tax should be the main nature of taxation in the future. It will be our main focus to collect revenue," he said.

Talking about the authenticity of audit reports submitted by companies, he said it is easy to get certified audit reports from chartered accountants without any relevance to actual income.

Mintoo said, "Corruption in the tax collection system should be eliminated and attitude of the tax officials changed."

"How many cases have been filed against the tax officials?" asked Mintoo.

"The black money generated by tax evasion is changing the business culture and the black money is being sent outside the country."

He pointed out that one of the main reasons for tax evasion was high rate.

"We pay three times more in taxes than our competitors," he said.

He said reasons must be explored why people are not encouraged to pay taxes.

Both taxpayers and collectors should be put under scrutiny for non-payment of taxes, he said.

"It is high time to reform and restructure the National Board of Revenue (NBR)," Mintoo said. "The arbitrary power of the tax officials allow collusion between tax payers and collectors. Such power should be abolished."

The FBCCI chief said that thousands of apartment owners who were not paying taxes should be identified.

Economist Wahiduddin Mahmud said that the government should crack on tax

evaders and put them behind the bars.

"If you look at the import figure and then compare it with the tax paid, it becomes clear that 20 to 30 per cent taxes are being evaded every year."

He also said that the NBR often goes into negotiations with taxpayers about how much they should pay.

"Such negotiations should not be encouraged since they create room for evasion."

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said that there existed a link between political funding and black money.

He suggested auditing of funds of the political parties to stop use of black money in politics and to bring accountability in the political process.

He also said that the ceiling of taka three lakh for campaign in parliamentary elections by candidates is not realistic as they usually spend Tk 10 to Tk 20 lakh. The amount should be a logical revision.

NBR Chairman Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury attributed the reasons for tax evasion to distortion in rates.

Keeping the salary structure of the tax officials unchanged, it is very difficult to bring about any change in the present tax situation," he said. "We need to increase the mobility of the tax officials, but we do not have sufficient resources."

This year we are going to introduce a new tax payment system under which the tax return will be deemed as the final report. We will check 15 to 20 per cent of these returns to ensure correctness of the reports."

"We will also make PSI mandatory for importers."

World leaders greet President

On the occasion of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh, heads of state and government of different countries have sent messages of congratulations to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, re-

ports UNB.

In their messages, they expressed confidence that the existing friendly relations with Bangladesh would continue to grow in future.

They wished good health and personal wellbeing of President Shahabuddin and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh.

The messages, so far received, are from King of Malaysia, King of Bhutan, Amir of Bahrain, Presidents of UAE, Czech Republic, Ireland, Poland, North Korea, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE, Prime Minister of Japan and Deputy Prime Minister of UAE.

In a separate message Queen Elizabeth II of United Kingdom also congratulated President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

"I made a payment of Tk 50,000 on August 26, 1998 and was told that I would receive registration within a week. But that week has not come yet," a weeping Diana Chowdhury told journalists.

Diana Chowdhury said that she had paid around Tk four lakh before moving into the flat and had only delayed in paying two instalments as she was out of the country. On her return she found that her flat had been sold to someone else at Tk 100,000 higher.

She was later told to change her flat as she had defaulted in



Owners and employees of the shops in the Baitul Mukarram Market took to the street protesting the attack by hawkers yesterday.

— Star photo

Moqshed murder case in Faridpur

Main accused yet to be nabbed

From Naimul Haq

FARIDPUR, Mar 25: Police has so far failed to arrest the main accused implicated in the sensational Moqshed murder that occurred last Saturday.

A day after the murder, District Police Super, Abdul Mabud, had gone to visit the spot but he came under a mob attack as soon as he arrived on his jeep at Tepakhola. He and six other police constables were injured in the attack. Prior to SP's arrival, the agitated mob brought out a huge procession in Laxmipur and adjacent areas to protest Moqshed's murder and demand improvement in the law and order situation in the town.

Moqshed, a cycle parts trader, was murdered on Saturday after he refused to pay toll to one Shaheen, allegedly a notorious toll collector of Faridpur town. Fatally injured Moqshed died while being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same night.

The gangster had earlier warned Moqshed that if he failed to pay the toll he would have to face grave consequences. "Police was informed about Shaheen's threat but police did not pay any attention," said one of Moqshed's companions.

He went on to say that Moqshed had earlier paid a small amount of toll to the gangster and his friends Shaheen and Naim on several occasions but they were not satisfied with the amount. Moqshed often complained about their harassment.

Bomb blast in MP's house in Sylhet

CID yet to take over case

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 25: The case related to the bomb blast incident that took place in the house of a ruling party MP is yet to be transferred to the CID, said a police official today.

The Chhatak thana police is going ahead with its investigation, he said adding that they are now waiting for the official report of the army team of explosive experts, which conducted a search of the house on Tuesday and yesterday.

The team recovered over 20 bombs and 2 kilograms of bomb making materials from the house.

Over 150 inoperative bombs, a Chinese axe, 5 daggers and 5 razdas were also recovered by the team during its 7 hour search in the two storey building. The team later detonated the bombs at a nearby field.

Materials recovered, was handed over to the Chhatak thana authority.

Meanwhile, the police has been trying to nab one Gopal and another young men who allegedly fled from the house

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Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited

Motorola, the world leader in communications is proud to join hands with PBTL to usher a new era in Bangladesh.

We at Motorola take this opportunity to congratulate PBTL in being the first CDMA mobile commercial network in the SAARC region. Motorola is delighted to provide CDMA, the world class technology. On this momentous occasion, we renew our commitment to PBTL and wish them the best for the future.

MOTOROLA

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Owners accuse Manzur Quader
Prominent Housing flat owners yet to receive registration of their property

By Staff Correspondent

Flat owners of Prominent Housing yesterday accused Major Manzur Quader of deceiving them by not handing over their apartments despite regular payments.

They also accused Quader of physically assaulting them by hired goons.

Prominent Social Welfare Association, an association of the flat owners, in a press conference alleged that they had made a down payment equal to 30 per cent of the total price and were paying regular instalments under the agreed hire-purchase scheme which were to be paid off in 15 years.

"Despite our regular payments Quader did not complete the registration of the flats to many," Diana Chowdhury of flat number 23/4 said.

"I made a payment of Tk 50,000 on August 26, 1998 and was told that I would receive registration within a week. But that week has not come yet," a weeping Diana Chowdhury told journalists.

Diana Chowdhury said that she had paid around Tk four lakh before moving into the flat and had only delayed in paying two instalments as she was out of the country. On her return she found that her flat had been sold to someone else at Tk 100,000 higher.

She was later told to change her flat as she had defaulted in

paying the two instalments and only Tk 3.50 lakh was adjusted with new flat.

"I am a witness of what Quader and his men are doing to these poor innocent people. The real estate business is of the rich men. But those who came here to live are middle class people who have fallen prey to Quader's trap. They have invested their life savings and are being cheated," said Abul Khalil, a renowned TV actor who is a tenant of the housing society.

Rafiqul Alam, one of the residents, said that the commitments made in the original prospectus were not kept and new payments were asked for making garages, mosaic tiles and water tanks which were supposed to have been borne by Quader.

He also alleged that despite payments of Tk 40,000 by each flat owner, Quader had made illegal water and gas electricity connections and collected money by producing fake bills. The owners later had to pay the outstanding dues from their own pockets again.

Golam Mustafa of flat number 117 alleged that another sufferer of the housing society.

said that Quader defaulted repaying his own loans taken by mortgaging the Prominent properties which had already been sold.

Zimbabwe will take on Kenya in an all African final tomorrow. The day-night match will start at 2 pm.

Zimbabwe

From Page 1

With Alistair Campbell playing a captain's knock of 97, Zimbabwe were cruising at 242 for five in the 47th over. But the game started to swing Bangladesh's way when an impetuous Carlisle (43 off 47 balls) was adjudged leg-before while attempting a reverse sweep against Khaled Mahmud.

The home side got a massive boost when Campbell, backing up at the non-striker's end, was run out from a direct hit by Enamul Hoque in the very next over. The departure of the Zimbabwe captain left the tail with the difficult task of getting 13 runs from the last 12 deliveries.

Campbell's match-winning effort, however, failed to take the shine of a remarkable feat by Bangladeshi opener Mehrab Hossain. The 21-year-old scored a fluent 101, the first by any Bangladeshi in one-day internationals, to help his side record 257 for five and equal their highest team total against Zimbabwe.

Mehrab, who clubbed nine fours and a couple of sixes in his chancery 117-ball knock, shared a record 171 first-wicket partnership with Shahriar Hossain.

Meanwhile, Shahriar Hossain scored a patient 68 off 116 balls, his second one-day half century, with the help of six fours. And a marauding Akram Khan provided much slog over excitement with an undefeated 50 off only 44 balls.

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We congratulate
Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited
as they lead Bangladesh and
South Asia into the 21st Century

In 1993 Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited introduced cellular communication in Bangladesh. 1999 sees Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited take cellular communication to its peak. With the launch of CDMA wireless mobile network technology, Bangladesh will become the first country in South Asia to possess such an advanced telecommunication system.

We are proud to be a part of this momentous occasion alongside Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited as we set a scorching pace of development into the new millennium.

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