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Probe body formed Ships carrying sugar collide at Ctg outer anchorage

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 15: The Chittagong Port authority today formed a one-member committee to probe Sunday's collision between two sugar carrying foreign vessels at the outer anchorage in a storming weather and high tide.

Deputy Conservator of Chittagong port Capt Amirul Islam will probe the incident and submit a report, port sources said.

The two vessels, MV Shanon and MV Python, were carrying sugar imported by Bangladesh Food and Sugar Industries Corporation.

Harbour Master of the port, Qamrul Islam, told The Daily Star that sea water leaked into hatch No 3 of MV Python through the cracks caused by the collision and 3067 tonnes of sugar were damaged.

Lighterage of the ship is continuing.

The other ship also suffered slight damage.

MV Shanon had arrived at the outer anchorage on June 10 and MV Python on June 13.

The vessels carried 27,400 tonnes of sugar worth about Tk 50 crore.

Kibria

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velopment budget," said the finance minister.

Kibria maintained that he had said that the additional tax would be collected through expanding the network and reforming and rationalising the existing tax system. "Those who were supposed to pay taxes much before have been brought under the network. Is it new tax?"

About Saifur's views on expansion of the VAT net, Kibria said he regrets the change of his (Saifur) public position.

"He is the initiator of VAT in Bangladesh. I am complementing him by completing his work," Kibria said criticising Saifur Rahman's stand against expansion of VAT network.

He urged the BNP leader not to be involved in mudslinging only for achieving political ends and maintain the standard of a political debate. "It is not fair to misguide people. VAT was initiated in 1991-92 fiscal year. We can't wait for generation to generation to implement it."

"I never believe in political mudslinging and I hope he will stop it although I know he is under tremendous pressure from the tough liners of his party."

Refuting Saifur's claim that tax has been imposed on investment, he said, "Buying a car is no investment. It's consumption. Isn't a buyer an eligible taxpayer if he can buy a car? He was supposed to pay tax much earlier. We have brought him under tax network."

The Finance Minister said that the new budget proposes major reform and rationalisation of the tax system. "We went for systematic changes in the tax system," he said referring to budgetary steps to put pre-inspection system in action.

About supplementary tax on some import items, he said that it too was not a new tax. "It has been proposed on some items only to avoid revenue loss due to difference of tariff value and actual transaction after the introduction of PSI."

He expressed his surprise at Saifur's statement that a lock-in system has been imposed on local investment in the share market, saying, "I don't have any knowledge about it."

On budgetary provision for Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to submit tax return of their income at Bangladesh embassies, he said, "It's an additional facility to Bangladeshis living abroad, but the former finance minister has 'distorted' it only to agitate people living abroad against me."

Kibria clarified that NRBs will not have to submit tax return on their income abroad. The opportunity has been given to facilitate the NRBs or Bangladeshis living abroad who pay tax on their income in Bangladesh. From now on, they will not have to keep any lawyer or visit Bangladesh to settle their tax payments.

He also refuted Saifur's allegation that he was not acquainted with fiscal and monetary policies of BNP government helped to save the economy from any financial market disaster.

"It is not true. Rather, on many occasions, even at international seminars, I said the policies followed by the previous government and the present policies have saved the economy," Kibria said.

On allegations of the highly ambitious target of tax increase during the next fiscal year, he said, "It's definitely an optimistic target. But we have to try it."

General debate on budget in JS Welfare-oriented, says AL No social justice: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party legislators yesterday termed the proposed national budget for fiscal 1999-2000 as welfare oriented, while their opposition counterparts found it to be devoid of social justice.

The MPs belonging to the Treasury and the Opposition benches made their respective observations in the Jatiya Sangsad that began general debate on the proposed budget, yesterday.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria placed Tk 36,178 crore expenditure budget in parliament on June 10 last, while 17 lawmakers deliberated on the document, yesterday.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak observed that the Finance Minister has proposed a 'social welfare oriented budget', reflecting the dreams of Bangladesh Mujib for an exploitation-free Bangladesh.

He said that the proposed budget had given special emphasis on poverty alleviation, and suggested effective measures to develop the agriculture sector and protect local industries.

Appreciating the finance minister for proposing 'some 26 per cent of the national budget for poverty alleviation', Razzak said that he had 'succeeded in satisfying the common man'.

He defended the finance minister's claim of 5.2 per cent economic growth in the current fiscal, and blasted the leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia who found the figure baseless. "Khaleda's comment on the growth rate stemmed from her sheer ignorance. Anyone having a serious look at the estimates, concerned, would rather

find the growth rate higher than 5.2 per cent."

Razzak also criticised the BNP for its recent political 'understanding with the auto-craft Jatiya Party and Razakar Jamaat-e-Islami and found the alliance to be an 'unholy' one. The minister was, however, reminded of the Awami League's past honeymoon with the JP and Jamaat by many BNP backbenchers.

BNP lawmaker Mohammad Abu Hena found the proposed budget to be devoid of social justice. Hena accused the finance minister of trying to rob the poor by 'indiscriminate imposition of VAT' and other indirect taxes.

Observing that the finance minister has actually exploded a 'tax-bomb' on the down-trodden people of the country, Hena argued that he proposed a huge amount of indirect tax which directly affects the poor. In this regard, the BNP lawmaker gave a few examples that included imposition of VAT on soybean oil, small hotel and restaurants using only one electric fan, utensils made of plastic and so on.

Explaining reasons behind such a revenue drive, the BNP lawmaker said that the government had gone for lavish expenditure on various unproductive sectors, without ensuring any significant earning.

"You have to learn to earn before you go for spending," he advised the finance minister.

Rejecting Kibria's claim that measures have been proposed to protect local industries, Hena said: "The minister must learn that local industries could be

protected by imposing or increasing custom duty - not imposing VAT."

State Minister for Textile KM Jahangir Hossain hailed the budget as 'it has given a clear guideline to make the country self-reliant'. "Textile sector would be self-sufficient by the year 2002 with the setting up of backward linkage industries."

The state minister appreciated Kibria for proposing Tk 100 crore subsidy for the agriculture sector, ignoring the World Bank's usual disliking of such steps.

BNP lawmaker Lt Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain said that the government of Sheikh Hasina did not have any moral right to propose the national budget, as "it has lost public support."

Interpreting a recent statement of the PM that general elections would be announced only when her party would feel confident of winning the polls, Akbar said, "the statement clearly indicates that she is not confident about winning the polls now, which means she has already lost public support that brought her to power."

Akbar found the government claim of 5.2 per cent economic growth in the current fiscal "funny". "The prices of almost all essentials have gone up amidst the government claim of growth."

He also found the recent surrender of illegal arms in Jessore to be a 'stage managed game' aimed at establishing ruling party hegemony in the areas. "Had the drive for illegal arms recovery been a genuine one, what about the surrender of arms by my Treasury Bench brothers - Jajal Hazari and Shamem Osman - or what about those in the home minister's constituency?"

Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui, a BNP legislator from Tangail, termed the proposed budget to be a lullaby for sleep and dream. Challenging Kibria's claim that no fresh tax has been proposed, Siddiqui said that the finance minister has imposed new taxes amounting to some 10,060 crore takas.

He claimed that the people had already rejected the proposed budget by responding spontaneously to the opposition hartal on June 11.

Besides, he accused the prime minister's relations of various corruption. "Her brother-in-law has grabbed land around the Gulshan lake," the MP claimed, while he questioned her sister's 'source of money for buying a house in London'.

Ruling party MP Khan Tipu Sultan observed that the opposition was opposing the budget without realising its message. Claiming that the proposed budget had provided adequate sense of direction towards building a 'Sonar Bangla



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday on the occasion of tree plantation campaign '99. —Star photo

NAM centre Team leaves today for Beijing to meet developers

By Staff Correspondent

A six-member team will fly to Beijing tonight to meet the Chinese developers who will build a convention centre at the Osmani Udyan for the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka in 2002.

The team includes Public Works Department (PWD) chief engineer Mukdhir Rahman, chief architect Amir Hossain, additional chief engineer Matur Rahman, executive engineer Ahmed Ali Khan, sub-divisional engineer Abu Sadek and senior assistant secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing Jalal Ahmed.

The decision to select a city park to build the centre has sparked instant controversy among the city dwellers. A citizen's campaign, led by Dhaka University professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury was launched immediately after the decision was taken. The campaign under the banner, "Save the 11,000 trees at Osmani Udyan Movement" gathered momentum and several protest rallies and marches including a human chain were organised at the site.

Bound technical team said they were going to finalise the design of the convention centre. Asked whether there was any chance that the government would shift the venue of the centre to Western side of the park which is now a slum area, the official replied that he was not aware of it.

"Our concern is to finalise the design as per our requirement. It is up to the policymakers to select the venue. After the design is finalised the centre could be built anywhere," he said.

High Court orders autopsy after 4 years

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities to exhume the body of one Ahmed Chowdhury for autopsy, four and a half years after his death, reports BSS.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mohammad Latifur Rahman directed the Magistrate, Sattania (Chittagong) to take appropriate steps for exhuming the body for autopsy.

The application, filed by Mohammad Golam Mostafiz, son of the deceased under Section 561A of Code of Criminal Procedure, alleged that his father had been murdered by one Areful Hye alias Kamal Hye and his companion.

Earlier, Mostafiz filed a murder case against Hye and others which was registered as GR Case No 34 of 1995.

It was alleged that Ahmed Chowdhury had been murdered on January 26, 1995 by the accused but they had buried him. After filing FIR the officer-in-charge (Police) of Sattania appealed to the District Magistrate Chittagong on April 14, 1995 for the deployment of a Magistrate for exhuming the body for autopsy.

But the Magistrate concerned on August 28, 1996 rejected the prayer on the ground that exhumation will serve no purpose as the body has already decomposed and it might create

Barricade

From Page 1
put up road barricades at Alonker Crossing, Sitakunda, Faujdarhat and at some other points on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, disrupting the road link.

Rallies were held and barricades put up at Kalurghat on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway, disrupting the road link.

some havoc in the area as the body is buried at Mirzakhil Darbar Sharif.

The petitioner filed an application before the Sessions Judge, Chittagong challenging the order of the Magistrate. The Sessions Judge also rejected the prayer and upheld the order of the Magistrate on June 2 this year.

The petitioner later filed a revision application before the High Court for exhuming the body and the High Court after hearing allowed the prayer and directed the authorities to take proper steps.

Advocate Riaz Uddin Khan Reza moved on behalf of the petitioner and Assistant Attorney General Abdur Rouf pleaded the case on behalf of the state.

Banned shrimp fry seized at ZIA

By Special Correspondent

The customs air freight surveillance team at Zia International Airport seized 47 cartons of shrimp fry in the early hours of yesterday.

Customs sources said the fry were brought from Thailand illegally.

The fry were inside poly bags filled with oxygen.

The surveillance team seized shrimp fry while they were being taken out of the air freight bay through the gate reserved for export cargo, the sources said.

Investigations are on to find out the importers.

The import of shrimp fry were banned after virus destroyed shrimp farms in the southwest and southeast regions of the country.

Burglary at Transcom showroom

By Staff Correspondent

Burglars stole cash and electronics goods worth about Tk 4.5 lakh from a showroom of Transcom Ltd at DIT Road in Mouchak area under Motiheel thana in the early hours of yesterday.

Police and Transcom officials said a gang of burglars broke into the showroom and took away 15 television sets, a washing machine, two air conditioners, a microwave, a grill making woven, several TV and AC remote controls and Tk 53,884.

Mahfuzur Rahman, manager of the showroom, was informed about the incident by nearby shopkeepers yesterday morning. Later other officials from Transcom went there and found the entrance gate, grill and glass broken.

Mahfuzur Rahman lodged a case with Motiheel thana in this connection.

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP lawmaker Lt Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain yesterday ridiculed the recent home minister-supervised arms-surrender ceremony in Jessore.

"As I happened to be there during the occasion, I was curious to see who were surrendering illegal arms. I hoped the ceremony to begin with the surrender of arms by Joyal Abedin Hazari bhai to be followed by Shamim Osman bhai (two AL MPs). But I was frustrated finding none of them..." said the former army officer, prompting cheers in the opposition bench and anger in the treasury bench.

The former minister went on, sarcastically: The actual price of a kilo of onion was now Tk 80 but it is selling at Tk 25-28.

Caught off-guard by Akbar's pun, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Finance Minister SAMS Kibria burst into laughter. A jocular Kibria hinted that the BNP lawmaker was drunk.

Kibria's cue was taken up by deputy leader of the house and LGRD minister Zillur Rahman. "We know he drinks regularly and perhaps, he is passed the limit today," Rahman surmised.

Two defiant legislators --

Abdul Kader Siddiqui of ruling Awami League and Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman of main opposition BNP -- are being hailed in the Jatiya Sangsad almost every day, but not by their parties.

Both, AL and BNP are all praise for the dissidents of their rival camps but are discretely silent about their own rebels. Elected from neighbouring districts, Tangail and Kishoreganj, the two are currently campaigning against their respective parties.

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8 get life term for murder in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 15: Eight people have been sentenced to life term while four others to three years rigorous imprisonment in a murder case here today.

The District and Sessions Judge Md Shahiduzzaman in his verdict also fined Tk 2000 each, in default, to suffer another six months rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Those who have been awarded life term are Gourapad Mondal, Ratan Rajbangshi, Sukumar Rajbangshi, Dulal Rajbangshi, Pradip Biswas, Subhas Biswas, Kumaresw Biswas and Kumaresw Mondal.

The accused who have been sentenced to three years RI are: Amresh Biswas, Sudhin Biswas, Moni Kumar Biswas and Mitra Kumar Biswas.

According to the prosecution story in brief: The accused stormed into the house of Romendranath Biswas, 60, of Kuchiamora in sadar thana on May 20, 1995 and stabbed him indiscriminately as a sequel to land dispute.

The victim was rushed to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Faridpur District hospital where he died the following day.

Patil Kumar Biswas, nephew of the victim, Romendranath Biswas, filed a case with Sadar thana on May 22, 1995 and police after investigation chargesheeted 33 people in the murder case.

After examining the witnesses and records, the judge punished the 12 and acquitted 21 others.



Customs officials seized 150 gold bars at Zia yesterday. —Star photo

4 BNP leaders get anticipatory bail

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to four BNP leaders in a murder case, reports UNB.

They are Khairul Enam, MP, former MPs Nurul Amin Bhuiyan and Abul Khayer Bhuiyan and former JCD president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Ance.

The accused appeared in the court and prayed for bail. They are accused of murdering Jubo League leader Siphon.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed moved the bail petitions which were opposed by additional attorney general Hossain Azadi.

CID takes over Tayebi murder case in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 15: Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has been given the responsibility to investigate the killing of Indian national Jibran Tayebi, reports UNB.

The case was transferred to CID from Detective Branch today upon a directive of the Home Ministry.

Jibran, who worked at a foreign shipping company here, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the city's Agrabad commercial area on June 9.

CID ASP Abdul Quader Khan took the charge of the case and began investigation, officials said.

Sources said the investigation officer yesterday interrogated Jibran's housemaid Hasina Banu and eight staff of his business firm, and obtained important information from them.

Bill on woman & child repression ready: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Prevention of Woman and Child Repression Bill, 1998 will be placed in Parliament soon after approval of the Cabinet, reports UNB.

The final draft of the bill will be placed to the Cabinet within a very short time for approval, she told the House.

The Prime Minister said a draft of the bill was prepared a few days ago to introduce a new law by identifying weaknesses, obscurity, flaws and incompleteness of the existing Women and Child Repression (Special) Act, 1995.

The Prime Minister said when the bill was ready for placing in Parliament, some women organisations proposed inclusion of certain recommendations. The bill is now at the final stage after considering the recommendations of the women organisations.

Strive & win
A way of life

A view from the Gully

From Page 1

to New Zealand) of the four. This is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for the Pakistanis but by no stretch of imagination an occasion for complacency. A competitor like this never undermines the weaknesses of the opponent. A team which can reach that stage must have its strong points also and a win in the preliminaries is no guarantee for a victory in the semis. Pakistan must remember the 1992 semis against the Kiwis in Auckland. In that tournament Pakistan was the team which came from the brink to reach the semis and beat the Kiwis by four wickets and finally lifted the trophy in Melbourne against England. This is a game of cricket and anything may happen.

So far the Pakistani bowlers have had to carry their team on their shoulders. They have bowled exceedingly well against their opponents as a result all their regular bowlers are in the list of top ten in this tournament, a rare glory indeed. Like some of the top contenders, Pakistan so far have not suffered a genuine fifth bowler problem; in fact, if Afridi is in the team, they will have an extra hand to tide over any emergency. But batting must shape up in these important stages of the tournament. The lower order has performed extremely well so far and, if the top and middle really clicks then the latter batsman will be spared of the pressure. Yousuf Youhana's absence will definitely be felt in batting and fielding but that should be compensated by Jaz Ahmed.

The Kiwis have a good record in World Cup tournaments but the current one has been very depressing for them. Apart from Scotland and Bangladesh, their only glorious moment was against Australia in the first leg. Their batsmen have shown determination against a de-

Mostafa Faruque new envoy to India

Mostafa Faruque Mohammad has been appointed the high commissioner of Bangladesh to India, an official announcement said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

He will succeed CM Shafi Sami who has been made the foreign secretary. Mostafa Faruque was the deputy high commissioner of Bangladesh to New Delhi from 1979-81.

The new High Commissioner designate served in Bangladesh Missions in Cairo, Jakarta, New York and Yangon in different capacities.

Qulkhani of Dr. Sahadat Ullah to be held on June 16th



Dr A H Sahadat Ullah, an internationally-acclaimed economist and ex-Member of the Planning Commission passed away from complications related to motor neuron disease at 10:02 pm on June 13, 1999 in Dhaka. He was 73. He leaves behind his wife, daughter, son, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, two grandsons and a host of relatives and well-wishers. His janaza was held at the Gulshan Central Mosque after

Zohr prayers followed by burial at the Banani graveyard. His qulkhani will be held on Wednesday, June 16 at his residence (House 5A, Road 13, Sector-3, Uttara, Telephone: 892104) after Asr prayers.

The late Dr Sahadat Ullah was born on March 13, 1926 in Munshiganj. A top-rated student, he matriculated in 1944 with distinction and completed his HSC in 1946 under a Presidency Division Scholarship. Dr Sahadat Ullah graduated top of his class in Dhaka University where he completed his BCom in 1949 and MCom in 1951. He subsequently acquired a BSc degree from the London School of Economics (1963) and a Masters (1968/PhD (1974) in Economics from Harvard University. He was a fellow of the Colombo Plan and the Ford Foundation.

His early career included teaching positions in Dhaka University and Munnath College. His active involvement in the 1952 Language Movement, meant that he lost his lectureship in Dhaka University in 1953, though he was re-invited to teach by Vice-Chancellor Jenkins in 1954.

The bulk of his experience, however, was a distinguished career at the Planning Commission which he joined in 1963. He was the Chief Economist of East Pakistan in the late sixties and retired as Member of the Planning Commission in 1987. His wide-ranging contributions to socio-economic planning in Bangladesh have included the development of several of the country's five-year plans, development of policy papers relating to industrial and agricultural policy, and, most recently and analysis of the economic aspects of the current five-year plan. In addition, he was one of the pioneering proponents of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Dr Sahadat Ullah had a long association with multilateral associations such as the World Bank and he acted as advisor to several governments including Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines and Western Samoa on various aspects of economic policy formulation.

The family requests all friends, relatives and well-wishers to attend the Qulkhani.