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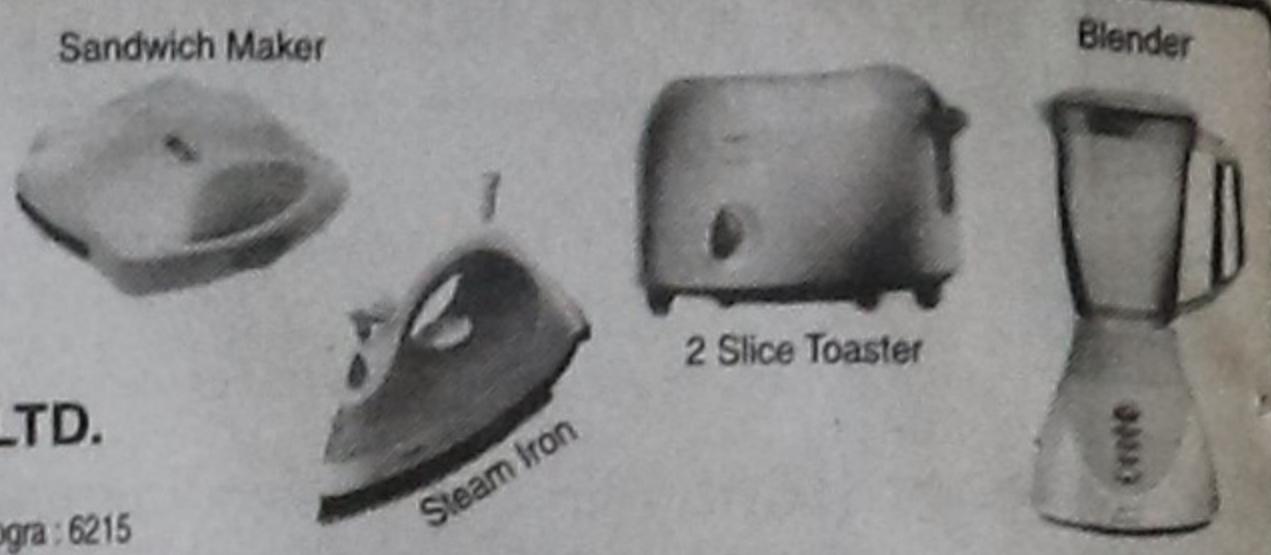
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Bangabandhu Murder Case

Defence seeks rejection of appointment of SPP, revision of paper book

Defence counsel in the Bangabandhu death reference case in the High Court submitted three petitions yesterday seeking rejection of appointment of Special Public Prosecutor and reconstruction of the paper-book removing irregularities, reports UNB.

Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for Lt Col (rtd) Syed Farook Rahman, came up with the two supplementary petitions before the death reference bench comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice A B M Khalir Huq. The third petition moved by Advocate Mahbubur Rahman sought for reconstruction of the paper-book.

Hearing will resume on Sunday.

2 brothers shot by extortionists in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two brothers were shot for their refusal to pay toll as demanded by a gang near Makhali kitchen market in the city yesterday, hospital sources said quoting witnesses and the victims.

The gang was led by one Alauddin. The victims were identified as Nantu Karmaker, 30, and Babul Karmaker 22.

Nantu was hit in his leg and Babul in his cheek. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the afternoon.

Gulshan Police when contacted only said they heard about the incident. No case was filed till the writing of this report last night.



National Committee for Beijing Plus Five Review (NCBPR), Bangladesh, organised a human chain at Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday demanding direct election to the reserved seats for women in and an increase in number of the seats. — Star photo

Former presidents, PMs patronised terrorists Nasim threatens to disclose their names

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has threatened to disclose the names of former presidents, prime ministers and a Speaker, who "patronised notorious terrorists for their political benefit" in the southwestern region of the country, reports UNB.

"I can prove with facts and I can name presidents, prime ministers and a Speaker who patronised notorious terrorists in the southwestern region," he said speaking in Parliament yesterday on a cut motion on the Home Ministry's allocation for fiscal 2000-2001.

The minister sought Tk 1,520,18,78,000 for non-development expenditure of the Home Ministry.

"These terrorists were used for political purpose during the regimes of previous governments," he said claiming that the present government had never given shelter to the terrorists.

"Nasim said, "Zia, Ershad and Khaleda could not curb terrorism because their parties protected them terrorists."

Claiming peaceful situation in the southwestern region, he however, said: "I'm afraid how

long we'll be able to keep the peaceful situation when I see Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia sitting on a stage in Kushtia with a killer involved in Udichi killing."

He said Bachhu Mollah, son of an MP involved in Kazi Aref killing, also sat with the Leader of the Opposition on the stage.

Seeking cooperation and sincere support of the opposition parties in curbing terrorism, the Home Minister said: "Terrorism cannot be curbed overnight. We're sincerely trying to curb it for the last four years. In many places, we are successful. We could be more successful if the opposition parties sincerely supported me."

Referring to a comment by Jatiya Party lawmaker Golam Farooq regarding a Tamil woman arrested in Chittagong, he alleged that there were conspiracies to hit the Prime Minister.

Those defeated in the struggle of democracy are now hatching conspiracy. Apprehending a possible defeat in the battle of ballot, they are planning to hit the Prime Minister," Nasim said.

Rajuk recovers more land

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk recovered around 26 kathas of encroached public land along Gulshan Lake on the third day of a month-long recovery drive yesterday, according to sources concerned.

The land was recovered from different plots at roads 93, 96 and 127. One of the plots belongs to former minister Shaikh Shahidul Islam and another to Brig (Retd) Sharif Aziz.

Rajuk officials along with magistrates and police men yesterday started the drive at about 10:30 am.

The drive is aimed at recovering about 25 bighas of encroached land along the Lake. Market price of the land is estimated at about Tk 125 crore.

Rajuk intends to build a walkway along the Gulshan-Baridhara-Banani Lake when the recovery drive is over, the sources said.

They also said encroachers ignored several Rajuk notices to vacate the land and many of them applied for allocation of the land.

Ten insurance cos fined for failing to go public

By M Shamsur Rahman

The office of the Controller of Insurance has fined 10 insurance companies for failing to go public within specified time.

Each of these companies have been fined Tk 10,000 up to December 31, 1999, and an extra fine of Tk 1,000 each day for default. The order was issued recently.

But none of these companies paid the fine till yesterday, sources at the office of the Controller of Insurance said.

Under the Insurance Act, an insurance company is supposed to go for initial public offering (IPO) to raise 50 per cent of its paid-up capital from the stock market within three years from the date of registration.

The companies are Prime General Insurance, Provti General Insurance, City General Insurance, Pioneer General Insurance, Meghna General Insurance, Mercantile General Insurance, Northern General Insurance, Bangladesh National Insurance, Homeland Life Insurance Meghna Life Insurance.

The sources said these companies were given registration on June 1, 1996. They were supposed to complete their fund-raising from the stock market by May 1, 1999, but none went for IPO.

Failing to go for IPO within the stipulated time, the companies applied for extension of time. The authorities granted six months' extension to all.

As they failed again, the Controller of Insurance fined these companies, the sources said.

When contacted, sources in the Bangladesh Insurance Association said that most of the companies did not go public as per suggestion of issue managers recognised by the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"Most of the issue managers advised the insurance companies not to go public as the stock market was dull. They had cautioned that IPOs would be under-subscribed," a source in BIA said.

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News Analysis

Cold war over Kashmir

Autonomy resolution breeds tension between Vajpayee, Abdullah

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, June 29: A battle of nerves is now on between the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir state Dr Farooq Abdullah on the latter's demand for autonomy for the sensitive north-western Indian border state.

The issue of autonomy was debated by Jammu and Kashmir assembly for nearly a week before a resolution was adopted by the house, where Dr Abdullah's National Conference enjoys two-thirds majority, recommending greater autonomy for the state amidst protests by Congress and BJP. The resolution endorses the recommendation of a committee set up by Abdullah government on autonomy for the United States, which wants New Delhi to travel some distance towards a political solution of the problem in Jammu and Kashmir, political analysts said.

Advani's reaction was apparently prompted by the fact that an outright rejection of autonomy would have sent "wrong" signals to the international community, especially India's key interlocutors like the United States, which wants New Delhi to travel some distance towards a political solution of the problem in Jammu and Kashmir.

But officials here are convinced that most of the recommendation of the committee on autonomy would be unacceptable to an Indian government irrespective of its political colour.

The BJP, lead party of the country's ruling alliance, and main opposition Congress have strongly opposed the autonomy committee report saying there is no question of going back to pre-1953 status in Jammu and Kashmir.

The concept of greater autonomy, political sources here say, is mainly aimed at ensur-

ing political survival of National Conference. Dr Abdullah's party is clearly uncomfortable by Vajpayee government's move to open channels of communication with the Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella body of 24 separatist bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, analysts say.

Playing the autonomy card at this juncture is aimed at preempting proposed talks between the federal Indian government and the Hurriyat leadership, they say.

It remains to be seen how Vajpayee government handles the autonomy issue as National Conference is one of its constituents with Dr Abdullah's son being a member of Vajpayee ministry. The autonomy committee report was handed over to Indian government several months ago. It is being studied by a committee of experts and after a committee of federal ministers is also expected to go through it. Officials and political analysts here said.

Significantly, Advani himself said two days back that a decision on the autonomy issue would be taken by Parliament. Only time will tell if National Conference will quit India's ruling National Democratic Alliance headed by BJP if its demand for greater autonomy is not accepted. Will Farooq Abdullah risk such a political gamble?

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