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PHOTO: STAR

Crumpled body of the Cessna-150 training aircraft of the Parabat Flying Academy that crashed into the Uttara sector-4 playground yesterday, killing the pilot.

Cessna crash kills trainee pilot

SHAIKH NAZRUL ISLAM And ABUL KALAM AZAD

A single-engine training aircraft of the Parabat Flying Academy yesterday crashed onto a playground at sector-4 in the city's Uttara Model Town, killing its pilot on the spot.

The Cessna-150 (S2-AAM) training aircraft crashed about one kilometre off the Zia International Airport (ZIA) when the lone trainee pilot Moklesur Rahman Sakib, 32, a steward of Bangladesh Biman, lost control of the plane in gusty winds at about 11:30am.

The S2A5 turbo-prop engine plane was badly damaged, some of its parts shattered into pieces. The nose and the right wing of the aircraft were severely damaged.

It is the second such crash of the Parabat Flying Academy in four years. Earlier in September 27, 1998, a Cessna-150 crashed onto the rooftop of a flourmill at Postogola in the city. The two pilots - Fareea Lara, 26, and Syed Rafiqul Islam, 24 - died in the crash after they lost control of the plane in gusty winds and heavy rain. The reason of the accident was set down to the Civil Aviation Authority's technical fault.



Moklesur Rahman Sakib

Official sources said Sakib lost communication with the control tower three minutes after takeoff from the Tejgaon Old Airport at 11:20am. Before that, the control tower asked him to make a landing. But he told the control tower that he could not see the runway and the tower told him to land at ZIA. Soon afterwards, the radio communication between the pilot and the tower

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

7 air crashes, 57 killed in 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-seven people have died in four of the seven air crashes in the country since independence.

On August 5, 1984, a Fokker F-27 Friendship 600 of Biman Bangladesh Airlines crashed killing 49 people on board and accounting for the highest number of casualties. The aircraft fell into the water, 550 metres short of the runway threshold.

On February 10, 1972, five crewmembers on board on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight were killed when a Douglas DC-3 aircraft crashed. This was the country's first air accident.

Two trainee pilots died when a Cessna C-150 training flight of Parabat Flying Academy crashed on 27 September 1998. And yesterday's incident took the death toll up to 57.

Four crewmembers of a Biman Fokker F-27 flight escaped unhurt when it crash-landed near Savar

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Forget about free lunch

Saifur tells post-budget press confce

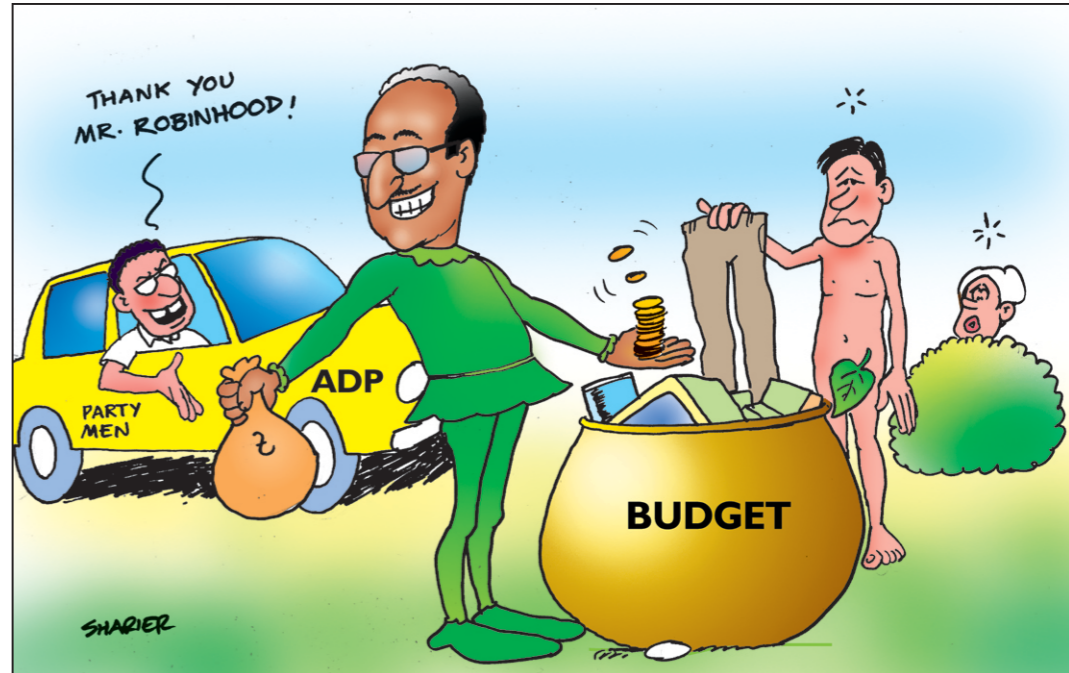
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Days of "free lunch" have to be left behind if the country is to be self-reliant. "You want self-reliance and development, but start shouting if there is any change in the tax measures." Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday.

Quoting some government officials of developing and developed countries, Saifur said there is no free lunch in many of the countries. "But still we have many areas where people have the scope to have free lunch. We have to think on this," he said at his post-budget press conference, held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He welcomed debates on his proposed budget saying, "Any budget will certainly spark some reactions, for or against. I welcome that exercise."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



CPD sees no clear reform measures, dev targets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading private think tank in the country, has observed that the proposed budget for fiscal 2002-03 does not contain a package of transparent and time-bound reform measures and development targets.

Although the finance minister's budget speech mentions a mid-term (three-year) framework, it does not give any mid-term target figures. The proposed budget also lacked any vision for boosting investment and protecting the textile sector from a 'possible disaster' after 2004.

The CPD said. It criticised the wholesale provision of making black money white saying that it never boosted investment anywhere any time. "It is very immoral, counter-productive and against equality."

Presenting the budget analysis of the CPD at its conference room yesterday, Executive Director of the organisation Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya made these observations.

Increase of import duty on some goods like powder milk, sugar and cement clinker would also create a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Taxed, tormented

STAR REPORT

Anwar Ali works at a private enterprise at a monthly basic salary of Tk 7,250. He barely managed to stay afloat given that his family's monthly expenditure was always on the rise. By no standard was it a decent life.

On June 6, Anwar was listening expectantly to the budget speech by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on television. He thought that there may be a glimmer of hope for people like him. Yet, that was not to be the case.

After the budget speech, he started calculating how much will go out of his pocket in income taxes at the year-end. He did not have to go for a complicated calculation as the finance minister said a person on a yearly income exceeding Tk 75,000 will have to pay Tk 2,400 in taxes.

On the contrary, Anwar's boss, on an annual income of Tk 10 lakh, is happy, as the new tax measure will give him a scope for more savings.

From the next fiscal year, Anwar's boss will have to pay Tk 1,58,750 as against Tk 2,07,000 in income taxes. Anwar Ali was dreaming of building a house on a land

he inherited from his father, with the saved money. And he was planning to borrow loans from a financial institution.

But now the budget heavily laden with taxes has landed Anwar in doubt about whether he would be able to build that house with his limited money.

The price of cement will surely go up. And certain is the rise in transportation cost for the new duty on the import of buses and trucks.

Now, he may have to give up his dream of own house and wait a few more years to save more to make his dream come true.

Father of two, Anwar Ali had a dream to send his daughter to an English-medium school. But he could not do that until now because of financial constraints.

As Anwar have got some increments over the last few years, he planed to enrol his son, who will be five in January next year, to a good English medium school.

He collected admission forms from two English medium schools for his son. But the tax on those schools made his son's enrolment uncertain.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Higher growth targets raise questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya has raised some questions regarding 'extraordinary higher growth targets' in some areas, particularly revenue earning, in the proposed budget for fiscal 2002-03.

According to him, the extraordinary higher growth targets are: 19.57 per cent in total revenue earning, 53.74 per cent in VAT, 35.3 per cent in customs duty, 86.2 per cent in taxes on vehicles, 52.3 per cent in land development tax, 37.4 per cent in stamp (non-judicial) fees, 33.3 per cent in narcotics sector, 78.8 per cent in administrative fees and 33.4 per cent in interest income.

Although the finance minister in his speech on Thursday projected these growth targets, he did not clearly explain how the targets

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Debapriya Bhattacharya

MCCI, CCCI welcome budget

STAR REPORT

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has hailed the proposed budget for the next fiscal, saying that although the planned revenue mobilisation may appear ambitious, it is achievable provided the administrative machinery is geared up accordingly.

"We recognise that the finance minister has had to prepare this

budget under a difficult global economic environment. Despite a reduced dependence on foreign aid, this budget has included the highest ever allocation to the annual development programme," said MCCI president Tapan Chowdhury in a statement.

The increased allocations to education, health and infrastructure are steps in the right direction and should create the environment for

stimulating the economy and reducing poverty, he added.

Apart from allocations to social sectors, there are various policies supportive of the growth of agriculture and industry, he said, adding that the thrust on agriculture and agro-based industries will boost these major sectors of the economy.

"We congratulate the finance minister for producing a budget

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

England stun Argentina

AFP, Sapporo

Captain David Beckham laid to rest his 1998 World Cup nightmare by scoring the only goal as England secured a crucial 1-0 win over favourites Argentina in the 'Group of Death' here yesterday.

England skipper Beckham blasted a 44th-minute spot-kick past Argentine keeper Pablo Cavallo after referee Pierluigi Collina pointed to the spot when striker Michael Owen was tripped in the box by Mauricio Pochettino.

The win put England second in Group F, level on four points with leaders Sweden, who were 2-1 winners over Nigeria earlier Friday. Defeat left Argentina third with three points.

But it was Beckham's night, the inspirational midfielder exorcising the ghost of St Etienne four years ago, when he was sent off against the Argentinians and held responsible for England's exit from

the World Cup.

"It's just unbelievable. It's been four years, a long four years. It's been up and down but this tops it off."

Beckham admitted taking the match-winning penalty had been a nerve-wracking experience.

"Their antics, the keeper telling me where I could place the ball,

(Diego) Simeone shaking my hand but that's the way they play."

However, the England captain tried to deflect praise away from himself. "The team was brilliant for 92 minutes."

Victory was greeted with relief and delight by England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, under fire

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Grameen Match Report

Spain first in last 16

AFP, Jeonju

Spain became the first side to reach the second phase of the World Cup following a 3-1 revenge win over Paraguay in Group B here yesterday.

European champions Real Madrid provided the cornerstone of the Spanish victory with half-time substitute Fernando Morientes getting the first two goals and then his team mate and Spanish captain Fernando Hierro finding the net from the spot seven minutes before the whistle.

In defeating the South Americans, Spain ensured that Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert served up two broken promises.

The controversial veteran had vowed to keep a clean sheet and also score twice himself but Spain,

having had Chilavert try to wind them up all week with comments about the fact that he thought they were nothing special, dramatically turned the tables after falling behind to an early own goal from Carles Puyol.

Victory was twice as sweet for

Spain because, in addition to securing a spot in the second round, as it was revenge for the goalless draw four years ago, when the Paraguayans helped to wreck the Spanish campaign at France 98 in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

DHL Spec Report