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More burden on shoulders

Middle class families to find it difficult continuing kids' education in English medium schools

SUMAN SAHA

Sabbir Ahmed, an executive of a private company, left office for home early to watch the budget speech on TV yesterday.

He expected the next budget to leave more disposable income in hand. But, unfortunately, the finance minister proposed little incentives for middle-class families like that of his.

The tax-free income threshold was left untouched for general taxpayers. But this will hardly benefit the middle-income people as living costs have gone up over the last few months. The overall inflation rate stood at 7.46 percent in April.

The government also proposed increasing VAT on fees and services in English medium

schools to 7.5 percent from 4.5 percent.

"It means my children's educational expenses will certainly go up," said Sabbir, the lone earning member of his family.

Like him, guardians and teachers voiced worries, saying educational expenses at the schools had already shot up three to four times in the last few years.

If the tuition fees go up further, it would be a huge burden on many families, they said.

"When the price of an educational material goes up, the other related materials also follow suit," said Sayed Ahmed, father of a student at Sunnydale School.

Another guardian whose child studies at Scholastica School said, "It is we who will ultimately pay the price."

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PM flies to China today

To seek assistance for 6 big projects

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for China this morning on a six-day official visit during which the two countries are expected to ink half a dozen deals in areas of economic cooperation, infrastructure and power generation.

Bangladesh will seek Chinese loan and aid

SEE PAGE 16 COL 5

A top Rab official ordered 7-murder

Ex-Rab man Rana tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seven murders in Narayanganj were carried out on the directive of a top Rab official, according to sources quoting ex-Rab official Masud Rana's testimony before a court yesterday.

Maj (ret'd) Arif Hossain, accused of murder, had made the same claim during his confessional statement recorded on Wednesday, sources said.

Rana, who testified before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate KM Mahiuddin, said he and former Rab official Maj (ret'd) Arif Hossain were in the Rab-11 team that kidnapped the seven from the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road.

Murder accused Rana said the victims were strangled with polythene sheets/bags inside the car and that they were sedated immediately after they were put inside the vehicle.

Lt Commander (ret'd) Masud Rana was sent into forced retirement from Bangladesh Navy following the abduction and killing.

Sources yesterday said in the testimony Rana reinforced Maj (ret'd) Arif's claim that the Rab officials involved in the kidnapping and murder on April 27 followed the commands of a Rab high official.

On the day, Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, his three associates and his driver, senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar and his driver were abducted allegedly by some members of Rab-11.

Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakhya river a couple of days later.

Sources said Rana provided a harrowing and meticulous account of the kidnapping, murder and dumping of the bodies, carried out by at least 23 Rab personnel.

SEE PAGE 16 COL 1

JS witnesses new record

Opposition JP hails budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented manner, the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday highly lauded the 2014-15 proposed budget by repeatedly thumping on their desks along with the treasury bench lawmakers.

Opposition leader Raushan Ershad and her husband Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and all JP lawmakers present in the House welcomed the budgetary proposals unveiled by the finance minister.

"We have set a new trend in politics by supporting the proposed budget," claimed JP Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu while talking to The

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Penalty for polluters

Tax holiday for non-polluting brickfields

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At long last the government means to implement the 'Polluters Pay Principle' by imposing one percent environmental surcharge on polluting industries and providing tax holiday for non-polluting brickfields.

For a long time green activists have been

demanding an imposition of a green tax on polluters to bring down the levels of pollution in rivers.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, in his budget speech yesterday, proposed imposing one percent 'Environment Protection Surcharge' or 'Green Tax' on ad-valorem basis on all kinds of products manufactured by polluting industries.

The government is levying the tax to

PRAYER TIMING June 6

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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