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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
LIFE
style

BAN ON NIKO

The Canadian company cannot sell its assets without govt permission

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LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Congress is entitled to the post in Lok Sabha, says Sonia Gandhi

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EPZ workers get rights to union

Cabinet okays draft law

At least 30pc workers of a factory in EPZ can apply to form an association

After registering with Bepza, executive body will be elected for one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law protecting EPZ workers' right to freedom of association, a week after an unpleasant US review came on the GSP.

As per the proposed law, at least 30 percent workers of a factory within an export processing zone will have to apply for registration to form an association.

After registration with the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza), the association's executive committee will be elected for one year.

One candidate or a panel will need at least 50 percent votes to be declared a winner and there will be a fresh election in case of fewer votes.

Right now, the EPZ Workers' Association and Industrial Relations Act 2009 does not allow trade unions, a term not mentioned also in the draft okayed by the cabinet.

However, the existing workers' welfare associations in the export processing zones will act like trade unions under the proposed Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act 2014, cabinet sources said.

On June 27, 2013, US President Obama announced his decision to suspend Bangladesh's trade benefits under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), citing serious shortcomings in workplace safety and labour rights.

The US also provided Bangladesh with an action plan which listed conditions, including reform of EPZ rules, for reviving the GSP status.

In the plan, the government was urged to "repeal or commit to a timeline for expeditiously bringing the EPZ law into conformity with international standards so that workers within EPZ factories enjoy the same freedom of association and collective bargaining rights as other workers in the country".

With the US setting 16 conditions, the government began reforming the garment sector.

On Wednesday, United States Trade Representative Michael Froman in his review said, "We are seeing some improvements that move us closer to our shared goal of protecting workers from another workplace tragedy such as the April 2013

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Shakib banned for six months

No permission to play in foreign leagues till Dec 31 next year

SPORTS REPORTER

In a one-of-a-kind decision the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday suspended all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan from taking part in any competitive cricket for six months. The left-hander has also been barred from taking part in any foreign competitions until December 31, 2015.

The decision was taken during a board meeting at Mirpur. The board's verdict means that Shakib will not be a part of Bangladesh's series against the West Indies and Zimbabwe, scheduled for August and October respectively. He will also not be given a No Objection Certificate (NOC) in the Caribbean Premier League or any other foreign T20 domestic competitions for the next 18 months.

The left-hander had gotten himself involved in a series of disciplinary issues in the last two months and according to BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon, the suspension was a result of all the events combined.

During Bangladesh's home series against India in June this year, Shakib left the dressing room during an ongoing match and allegedly got into a scuffle with a spectator. The left-hander was called in for a hearing regarding the issue after the series.

Then the all-rounder defied the board's authority and left the country to take part in the CPL without obtaining a NOC from the BCB.

The breaking point, however, was reached when the board learned through a letter from coach Chandika Hathurasingha that the 27-year-old, after an argument with the coach before leaving for the West Indies, had threatened to quit ODI and Test cricket.

Speaking to reporters, BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon said, "The series of

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COME BACK WITH A SMILE - S4

KEY FACTS

1ST SESSION OF 10TH JS

Quorum crisis cost JS Tk 8.01 crore; House lost 17.7 hours

JS spent only 1.8% time for lawmaking

59% of the MPs are businessmen, 13% lawyers, 6% politicians

191 out of 350 MPs didn't take part in any proceedings

Nearly no time for law making

TIB study shows AL, JP praised themselves 856 times, blasted BNP on 531 occasions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although making laws is the main function of parliament, lawmakers spent just 1.8 percent of the total time for the purpose in the first session of the current House, a TIB study has found.

In the House dominated by businessmen-turned-lawmakers, only eight of the 350 legislators took about two hours of nearly 114 hours that parliament was in

session to discuss two laws. Each of the law was eventually passed in about six minutes, with no participation by any opposition MPs, the study shows.

The study, titled "Parliament Watch", was released at a press conference at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday.

It shows both the ruling and opposition MPs used much of the time praising their respective parties 856 times and lambasting

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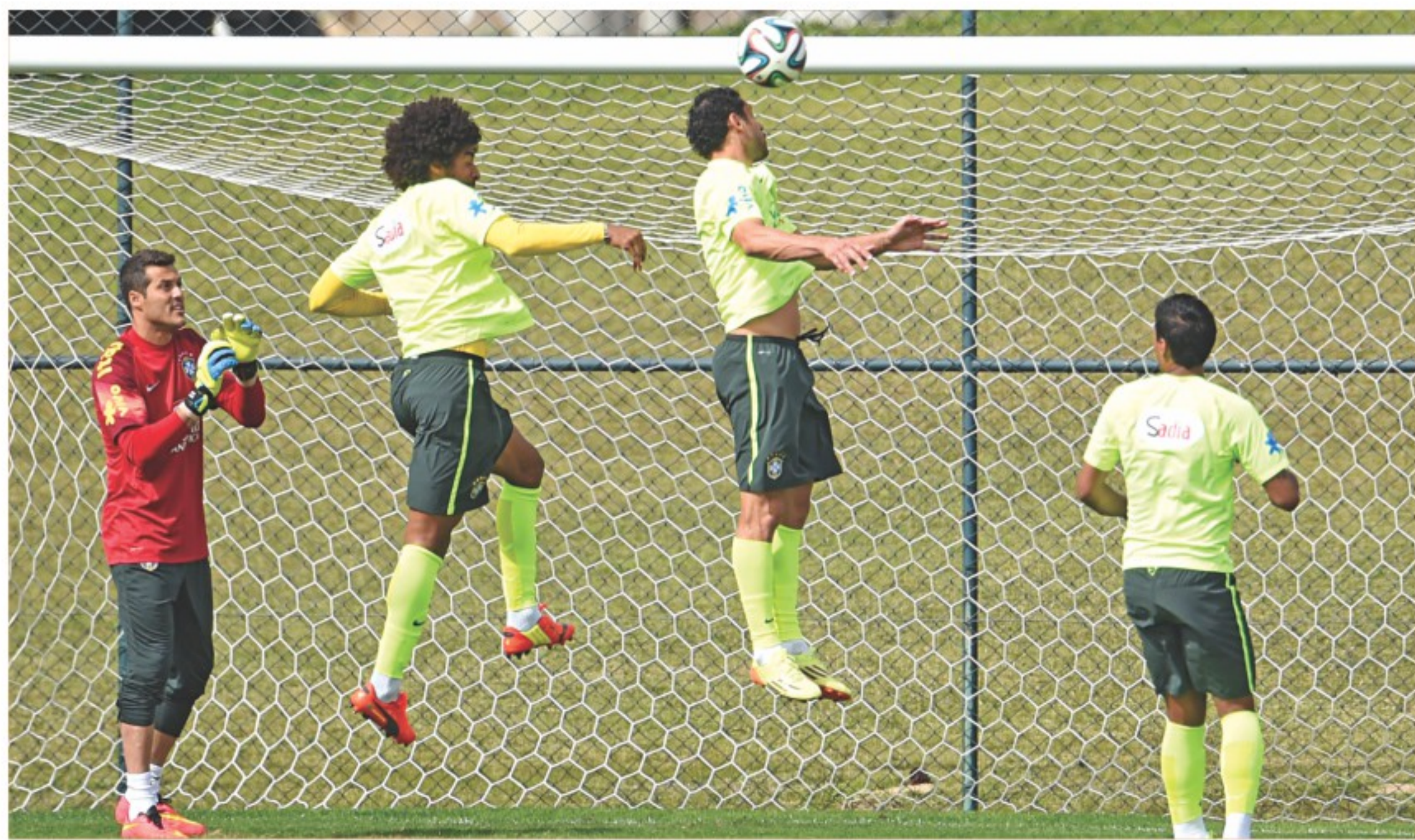
It's now or never for both Brazil and Germany

REUTERS, Belo Horizonte

Brazil must overcome the massive blow dealt by the injury to marquee forward Neymar if they are to beat frighteningly consistent Germany on Tuesday and book a World Cup final spot on home soil for a second time.

Brazil, chasing a sixth world title, are still reeling from Neymar's injury in their quarterfinal win over Colombia, and the entire nation is holding

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Forward Fred (C) heads the ball ahead of defender Dante (2nd from L) during Brazil's training session in Teresopolis on Monday. The hosts take on Germany in the first semifinal of the World Cup today.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES




SUMMIT COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED WINS ASIA COMMUNICATION AWARD 2014 IN THE CATEGORY OF "BEST EMERGING MARKET INITIATIVE"




Muhammad Aziz Khan, Chairman of Summit Group and Md Arif Al Islam, Managing Director of Summit Communications Limited received the award for Best Emerging Market Initiative from Tian Unp Ping, Starhub on June 19th, 2014 in Singapore.

Led by a panel of independent judges the Asia Communication Awards is one of the most prestigious recognition given to companies and individuals who make outstanding contributions to the success of the telecom industry in Asia.

The other winners of 2014 in various categories included Singtel, NTT Communications, Huawei, Starhub, Pacnet and many of the leading telecommunications players in Asia.

"The award for BEST EMERGING MARKET INITIATIVE is awarded to a company offering an interesting deployment model - aggregating networks from telcos with its own infrastructure and that of the power grid to cost effectively reach rural areas. The result is broadband reaching out to 160 million people and the winner is Summit Communications."

- Janet Watkin, Chair of the Judges
Founder and CEO of Ocean82

Summit communications Ltd (SCL) is a leading telecom infrastructure operator having Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network (NTTN) and Gateway licenses from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). SCL through its nationwide fiber optic network has been providing services of broadband - data, internet and dark fiber leasing to the telecommunication operators and the ICT industry as a whole. Recent launch of 3G services was facilitated through SCL's fibre optic network connecting over 1500 base stations of the Mobile operators. In order to reduce infrastructure cost at the customer end, SCL adopted a strategy of aggregating the existing infrastructure of different operators (telecom and power grid) and expanding its own network into areas that have been previously unreachable. SCL has built access to 11,500 KM network covering 43 districts and 156 upazillas and has an ambitious plan of covering 100% upazillas by 2017.