



clear. As always, astrology is never quite clear much like the gassy, bloated, unsure planet known as Saturn. Those swirling shapes on the surface could easily represent a spaceship, a motorcyclist's brain or Kim Kardashian's behind.

It is a pretty safe bet that the planets are not going to impact your future. At least not since we found out there are no Martians on Mars. Without crazy, unpredictable laser-toting green men and women, Mars is just a rock that timely circles through space doing pretty much nothing. It does not even explode or emit scary chain e-mails demanding money. Which is safe to say it has no impact on what future events will befall us. The skies are safe.

But what about a career? Is any career safe? Can I attempt a career change to meet the demands of a price hike in just about everything? The smart thing to do is to prepare for something else other than writing nearly helpful advice articles. I told my wife about it and she suggested I become Thor before walking away leaving me wondering if she meant the Norse god or Chris Hemsworth. While this woman is largely unrealistic, it got me thinking what if I could become

Every day you learn something new and not always is it useful as fertiliser. What is useful though is knowing taxes on handmade confectioneries is lower, meaning more of your mullah stays in your pockets.

Martians, coconuts and changing careers with the 2019-20 Bangladesh Budget

ALMOST USEFUL LIFE HACKS



EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

You would think that a fortune teller would see it coming. But even they were surprised by the unpredictability of the ups and downs of the Bangladesh Budget 2019-20. Astrologers normally fear very little as their science involves far off planets that have circled for millions of years without actually hitting and injuring an astrologer. But this time, astrologers finally took a hit albeit with a raise in taxes.

Did they see it in their stars? One astrologer I asked told me this was 'not quite

something else?'

How about a social influencer? It seems easy. They post selfies on Instagram and pretend-find batteries in soup at restaurants. But almost always appear rich and influential. I could do that by posing against expensive cars that everybody can manage that. I can take it up a notch by posing on a helicopter. Which brings up the case of tax hike related to chartered flights and helicopters. What goes up must also be followed by taxes that

go up. This spells doom for high flying social influencers (I could have been one). Rise in prices means helicopters stay grounded.

The social influencer's fame is safe though if they follow the Russian Insta-celebs. There, young people pay a nominal fee to simply pose in front of or inside a grounded aircraft as if they own it. And the likes keep pouring in. Of course, they pay a hefty fee on their make up to look just right. Unfortunately, our Bangladeshi celebs will have to suffer quite a bit as cosmetics are seeing a hike as well. If you want to look good, you better pay the price.

Same with if you want to smell magnificent. Deodorant is going to be more expensive in this hot and humid country. People will stop buying deodorant to save up money for the massively pricey cigarettes. Cigarettes have seen an increase from Tk 105 to Tk 123 of which the government will get 65 percent as supplementary duty, 15 percent as VAT and one percent as health development surcharge.

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