

# Taxes on fertilisers, insecticides to impede agricultural output'

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting at 4-10 pm Monday with the Speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas, in the chair, reports BSS.

After tilawat-e-Quran the chair disposed of the notices submitted by the members on privileges and other matters.

Rising on a point of order, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman (BNP-Joypurhat), said that in the ferry ghat at Nagarbari, the ghat authority did not take care to take his transport to the ferry.

The Speaker drew the attention of the Shipping Minister in this regard.

The Bkhal Leader, Abdur Razzak, took the floor and wanted to know from the chair when the discussion on terrorism would be held in the House. He said it was agreed in the House that a discussion would be held on terrorism.

Replying to the member, Deputy Leader of the House Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury urged the chair to fix a date for such discussion and said "will want to discuss the situation."

The chair told the members that it would be included in the order of the day today.

### Akhtaruzzaman

Taking the floor Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury (AL-Chittagong) drew the attention of the chair to his notice on a privilege motion which the chair earlier referred to the concerned standing committee of the Sangsad.

Chowdhury wanted to know whether the issue that involved his 'honour and dignity' would come before the House during the current session.

He said a statement made by the Finance Minister in the House earlier had breached his privilege. His honour and dignity as a businessman had been affected, he added.

Chowdhury strongly refuted the contention of the Finance Minister that he had taken a loan of Taka six crore thirty lakh from a bank. He said if it was proved that he had taken such loan he would distribute the same amount (Taka six crore thirty lakh) to all the 330 members in the House.

Replying to the member with humour, the Speaker said the members of Parliament were non-purchasable.

### Dabirul Islam

Taking the floor Dabirul Islam (CPB - Dinajpur) brought an allegation against the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Thakurgaon that the police officer had ordered not to arrest a person who allegedly was involved in the murder of a local CPB leader.

Islam said his party colleague was killed the day he was taking oath as a member of Parliament.

He said the family members of the deceased had identified the killer but the SP asked his police not to arrest the accused.

The CPB member said he had brought the matter to the notice of the Acting President and also to the Prime Minister who is in charge of the Home Ministry.

The Speaker said the matter was subjudice but it would get due attention of the Home Minister.

### Fazle Rabbi

Advocate Fazle Rabbi (JP-Gabandha) said the Parliament members faced a good deal of problem in Aricha and Nagarbari ferry ghats as no priority was given to the MPs' transports to board the ferry.

The speaker again said that the matter was referred to the Shipping Minister.

Niamatullah Sabu (BNP - Dhaka) said a football final match was being held in the city Monday. If the House was adjourned before 7 pm, the members could witness the game, he added.

### Enamul Huq

Moving his call attention on urgent public importance, Enamul Huq (Jamaat-Cox's Bazar) said there existed a disparity in the imposition of taxes on the land for shrimp cultivation in the Chakaria Upazila of Cox's Bazar district.

He said Chakaria had about 20,000 acres of land for shrimp cultivation with the tax per acre of land fixed at a Taka 1,500 in 1986. But after 1986 he said, the Land Ministry allocated 7,000 acres of land for shrimp cultivation with the tax per acre of land fixed at Taka 1500 plus 15 per cent (annual compound rate). He said, this did of disparity was unjustified both legally and on humanitarian consideration.

He called for exemption of the tax for the current year as Chakaria was a cyclone affected area and demanded cancellation of two kinds of tax rates immediately.

### Jamiruddin Sircar

In reply to the call attention notice, the State Minister for Land, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, said it was not true that two rates of taxes existed for shrimp cultivation lands. He said no tax system was in exist-

ence for shrimp cultivation what was realised from the shrimp cultivators was the 'salami' and not tax.

He said the rate of salami was raised by 15 per cent in 1988. He said it was not based on the compound rate.

He said reports on damage caused to shrimp cultivation had been received from Noakhali and Bhola districts. He said the government would take its decision after reports from the districts of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar were received here.

### Mosharrif Hossain

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas then asked Mosharrif Hossain (AL-Mymensingh with Netrakona) to resume his unfinished speech on the budget which he was started Sunday night.

Hossain said the proposed budget was not for the common man as there had been proposals for the enhancement of taxes which would be burdensome for the poor.

He said taxes on fertilisers and insecticides would impede agricultural production in the country.

He said, the Finance Minister had proposed reduction of tax on white cement while he had increased taxes on tar which is used by the poor.

Hossain also called for fixing the rate of interest for agricultural loan at five per cent. He also criticised the imposition of Value Added Tax which he said had already confused the people.

The Awami League member called upon the government to announce the Pay Commission report for the government employees and new pay scales for the journalists.

The Speaker then adjourned the House for the Asr prayer.

As the House resumed its sitting after the 25 minute - Asr prayer break, the Speaker gave the floor to Salahuddin Ahmad (BNP-Dhaka) to take part in the discussion on budget.

### Salahuddin Ahmad

Then the Speaker asked Salahuddin Ahmad to deliver his speech on the budget. Taking the floor, the BNP member at the outset expressed his regards to those who had laid down their lives during the anti-autocratic movement. He said this Sangsad had been tinted by the blood of those martyrs. "So, we must be respectful to this Parliament," he said.

Speaking on the budget, Ahmad said the Finance Minister had offered a balanced, realistic and people-oriented budget for the nation.

Singling out the VAT system as a new inclusion in the budget, he said that it would have been wise had the new system been imposed in some areas on experimental basis. But, he said, the Finance Minister had introduced it for wider application.

Salahuddin Ahmad said that the Finance Minister had withdrawn the VAT from some areas but, he added, "our VAT objectives would have been successful had it been with-

drawn from the small industries."

In this respect, the BNP member asked those who were hatching conspiracy centering VAT system to refrain from that design.

Listing various problems in his constituency, Ahmad said that problems like water logging and inadequate drainage were creating utmost inconveniences in the area inhabited by about 12 lakh people. "The road communication is bad and minimum civic amenities are also absent in my area," he said.

Besides, the BNP member said some areas of his constituency were still out of the gas and electricity distribution networks. He appealed to the concerned ministers to take due steps on an urgent basis.

Referring to the closure of Dhaka Match Factory under his constituency for about two and a half year, the BNP member said that over 2,200 jobless labourers of that factory and their family members were suffering badly. He appealed to the Industries Minister and the State Minister for Labour and Manpower to take necessary measures for re-opening of the factory so that these labourers could get their job back.

The BNP member said that the Communications Minister who visited Demra area and saw the miserable condition of communication there had already assured him of taking due steps. He expected the steps would be taken soon.

Speaking about the plan for the construction of a part of the capital's flood protection embankment in his area, the BNP member appealed to the concerned minister to take due step towards that end. He also urged for announcing the DND Project area as a residential area.

### Abdur Rouf

Speaking next, Abdur Rouf Miah (AL - Faridpur) paid tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the "Greatest Bangalee" of all times

and said the nation would always remember him for giving it a distinct identity.

The opposition member was critical of the budget and said the financial document presented by the Finance Minister sought to give an impression as if a dynamic step had been taken to give the much needed buoyancy to economy but reality it carried nothing substantial.

He particularly mentioned the education sector and said no clear direction was given about this vital sector although the highest allocation was made for education.

Incompatibility in the system, violence in the campuses and other factors marred a healthy educational atmosphere, he said and demanded that the recommendations of the Qadriat-Khuda Education Commission be implemented in the country.

### Bangabandhu initiated an ideal education system but it could not be implemented as he was killed midway while pushing ahead the system" the Awami League member said.

Rouf Miah referred to the different problems in his constituency and drew the attention of the relevant authorities to their solutions.

### Zainal Abidin Farook

After he completed his speech, Zainul Abidin Farook (BNP -Noakhali) drew the attention of the chair to the on-going important final match between two foreign football teams in Dhaka stadium and requested the chair to adjourn the House to enable the members to watch the game on television.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in a lighter vein said a more important game was going inside this House and it was desirable that the members played an active role here.

However, he said Farook could certainly take leave from the House and watch the match if he so desired.

Mirza Muraduzzaman

Speaking next, Mirza Muraduzzaman (BNP

### Shamsul Haq

At this stage Md Shamsul Haq (AL-Mymensingh) stood on a point of order and drew the attention of the Speaker, what he said, a deadlock created in the ferry service at Shambhuganj, Mymensingh. He said, as freight trucks cannot move, trade and business suffered great inconveniences. He also sought to know as to when the bridge on the Brahmaputra at Shambhuganj would be opened to traffic.

### Fazul Haque

The Speaker told the member that he would convey the matter to the concerned minister. Instantaneously, AKM Fazul Haque (BNP-Mymensingh) rose from his seat and informed the House that August 18 had been fixed as the date for opening the bridge by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

### Salauddin Ahmed

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