

Self-assessment of tax may go, says Saifur

Income tax officials Saturday argued with the Finance Minister, who questioned their efficiency and honesty in checking evasion, that anomalous legislation was mainly causing revenue leakage, reports UNB.

During a free and candid discussion with Saifur Rahman, they admitted huge leakage in self-assessment and gift tax but viewed that anomalies in the regulations were the main reasons.

The Finance Minister said the government was thinking seriously about rescinding the self-assessment system.

"Self-assessment is not giving satisfactory return. This government won't allow anyone to make black money white", he added.

But, he viewed, honest and sincere efforts could have plugged leakage in income tax to a great extent.

A senior tax official agreed with the minister, saying "an extreme reluctance, erosion of values and honesty" had led to the current stagnation in income tax earnings.

"I am just not satisfied with performance of the income tax department. There are tremendous potentials for expanding income tax base which is not being exploited," Rahman said.

He asked the officials to be rational and practical while

assessing corporate taxes to check the trend of evasion. Manipulation in assessment has to be removed, Rahman said.

Discriminatory tax amnesty in self-assessment has brought the opportunity of legal avoidance for evaders, Additional Tax Commissioner Delwar Hossain said.

"After enjoying years of tax holidays, a company often tends to show colossal loss and tax officials become helpless in absence of legal support," he added.

"Are they honest tax payers who are coming to you with allegations," said Hossain responding to the minister's accusation that tax-payers are harassed by assessors.

Joint Tax Commissioner Tozammel Hossain substantiated, saying "assessors are not policy makers of interpreters of policies... gift tax is being heavily misused, but that is because of assessors, were exploiting the loopholes of the system itself."

Responding to the minister's dissatisfaction at low earnings from the income tax sector, Hossain said there are only 15,000 Class I assessors in the metropolis, which should have been much higher to cope with the task.

NBR Chairman Nurul Hossain Khan announced that the authorities had decided to expand the income tax department soon to augment revenue.

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman also addressed the meeting.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a big public meeting at the premises of Natore Govt College Saturday. —PID photo

Shantibahini threat to independence, says Abbas

Acting Amcer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Abbas Ali Khan has condemned the Thursday's brutal killing of six persons at Khagrachhari by the so-called Shantibahini men, reports BSS.

In a statement, Saturday he said this killing had demonstrated that the people were living there in a state of insecurity.

This sort of killing is a threat to the country's independence and sovereignty, he said adding "it is the responsibility of the government to apprise the people under whose patronisation the so-called Shantibahini men are carrying out armed attacks."

JCD, BCL clash in Chandpur: 22 injured

CHANDPUR, Nov 16: At least 22 students were injured, seven seriously, in a serious clash between activities of Jatyaabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (H-A) in Matlab upazila here today, reports UNB.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) said the clash erupted as the two organisations differed on fixation of the date for the students' union election of Matlab Degree College. The clash later spread to Matlab bazar and JD High School.

Seriously injured students Jahangir Alam, Nazimuddin, Omar Faruk, Farid Uddin Kanon, Abul Kawar, Ahmed Ullah and Sangram, all belonging to the JCD, were rushed to the upazila health complex. Fifteen others were released after first aid.

Police were deployed at different places but tension was prevailing in the town.

Nov 30 ultimatum

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lences the federation alleged. The rally was also addressed by Prof Mahfuzur Rahman, Secretary General of the Federation, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, President of Dhaka University Teachers Association, Prof Jasmuddin, President of Engineering University Teachers Association, Shah Mohammad Faruq of Agriculture University and Yashia Rahman of Islamic University.

The teachers federation alleged "mysterious inactivity" of law enforcing agencies on university campuses while teachers, students and general employees were hostages to terrorists. It said it was alleged by the police that they were not provided with the necessary permission from the authorities to take stern action against the terrorists.

The federation, demanded clear statement from the Home Ministry in this regard. The FBUTA, said terrorism was a threat to the social order and continuation of democracy and called upon the guardians and professionals to come forward to build a nation-wide social movement against terrorism.

Prof Mahfuzur Rahman in his speech contradicted the opinion passed by certain quarters blaming ineffectiveness of the University Ordinance '73 in curbing campus violence. He defended the ordinance saying campus violence came from outside and its root cause was political.

He said it was unfortunate that an elected government so far failed to take any measure in this regard. Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury said teachers would be compelled to launch movement as it did to oust the autocratic regime if, the government failed to root-out terrorism.

Earlier, the teachers, gathered at the Engineering

Cocktail explosion in beauty parlour: two injured

Two cocktails went off in a city beauty parlour Saturday seriously injuring a beautician and her customer, reports UNB.

Momtaz Begum (22) lost a hand as doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital amputated her right wrist, DMCH sources said.

Customer Ranjit Kumar Das, also aged 22, was also rushed to DMCH and operated upon the right thigh to remove splinters.

Sources said Ranjit, a cleaner of Mohsin Hall's extension building of Dhaka University, went for a massage to the Jhikhak Beauty Parlour in the first floor of New Market at noon.

As Momtaz started his body massage, two cocktails allegedly exploded from Ranjit's pocket, witnesses said.

Police, on information, rushed to the scene and took both the injured to the hospital.

Responsibility

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despite failures, he deplored. The FBUTA president, however said government alone could not root out campus violence.

political parties were not at all sincere in showing cordiality and sincerity in this regard, he alleged.

When asked to comment on a proposal for raising campus police, he said none could guarantee that it would perform its duty with full neutrality.

"In fact", he said, "police will not be required if the government and political parties can introduce a formulae to separate student politics from the national politics."

Commenting on the indefinite strike by the teachers of Dhaka University he said, "I feel it personally that terrorism would not be removed keeping the university closed."

He deplored the delay in government action and also in preparation of the parliamentary committee report regarding campus violence.

Hasina

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Sheikh Hasina said Awami League is pledge-bound to establish democracy as an institution ensuring people's fundamental rights to food, work, education, health and shelter.

Hasina claimed that her party fulfilled its pre-election commitment to the people by forcing the ruling party to revert to parliamentary form of government and writing off the agricultural loans and their interests.

Chaired by the district AL chief Mohammad Ali, the function was also addressed by local MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, and AL leaders including Kazi Abdul Rashid and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Since the last polls in 1988 the number of UPs has increased and now officially stands at 4416. However, this total number is likely to be lower as a few union parishes were merged with the neighbouring municipalities since the last UP polls, the EC source pointed out.

Elections cannot be held on the scheduled dates in 424 union parishes mainly for pending court cases involving

Jordanian cabinet resigns

AMMAN, Nov 16: Jordanian Prime Minister Taher Masri today submitted the resignation of his 25-member government, a government source said, reports AFP.

Opposition parties

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yield any benefit neither for them nor for the nation. Rather it led to the isolation of the party from the people, gradually.

The Awami League has convened a meeting of its national executive committee on November 28 to take a long-term organisational and political programme.

Now the Jatiya Party which is now grappling with the inner party contradictions, particularly over leadership, has announced a programme to observe December 12 as a day for release of Ershad and other party leaders.

But the ruling BNP leaders confided that Clause 70 of the Constitution which totally barred floor crossing in the parliament helped deter the split in the Jatiya Party. Many leaders of the Jatiya Party have already contacted BNP for joining the party. But for the BNP, it would be difficult to provide shelter to any of the Jatiya Party leaders so early, the BNP insiders said.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, with its transnational loyalty, is also facing some ideological problems. The current political trend thro-

The Midnight File

Honecker to be expelled from Russia

MOSCOW, Nov 16: The Russian government has decided to expel former East German leader Erich Honecker from its territory, its Justice Minister said today. The minister, Nikolai Pyodorov, told interfax news agency the decision was taken at a cabinet meeting of the Russian government on Friday chaired by President, reports Reuter.

Baker's China visit yields no fruit

BEIJING, Nov 16: US Secretary of State James Baker's visit to China has produced no agreements on issues that threaten the future of Sino-American relations, a US official said today. The official travelling with Baker said he could report no Chinese movements on areas of US concern, including human rights, trade and nuclear proliferation, reports Reuter.

5 killed in S African violence

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 16: Five people were killed in overnight violence in Black townships across South Africa, including a man who was lynched by a mob in Munsieville township west of here, police said today. The man was sought out and cornered by a 10-strong mob, stabbed in the face and chest with a garden fork and then burned to death, police said, reports AFP.

Moscow may be venue of ME peace talks

CAIRO, Nov 16: The Soviet Union is considering Moscow as a possible venue for the multilateral phase of Middle East peace talks. Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said in a message to his Egyptian counterpart today. After delivering the message to Foreign Minister AMR Mousa, the Soviet Ambassador to Egypt also quoted Pankin as saying contracts were continuing to fix a date and venue for the resumption of bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, reports AFP.

Rain kills 28 in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: Torrential rains pounding Southern India have killed at least 28 people and left thousands homeless over the past four days, a local news agency said today. Deaths and injuries were due mostly to collapsing houses and electrocution. One man died in the state capital Madras when an advertisement billboard fell on him, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuter.

'Bangladesh a low-cost base for investment'

HONG KONG, Nov 16: A country presentation meeting on Bangladesh Export Processing Zones jointly sponsored by the Hong Kong Federation of Industries and UNIDO was held on Thursday at the conference room of the Hong Kong Federation of Industries, reports BSS.

The meeting attended by many local investors and businessmen representing various sectors like garments, electronics, toys, leathers and plastic products was addressed by ASA Nur, Member (Investment Promotion), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones authority as the key note speaker.

Warren Kwok, Director (Trade Services) of the Hong Kong Federation of Industries welcomed the participants and introduced the panel speakers to them.

In his introductory speech, Warren Kwok recalled his visit to Bangladesh with a delegation from the federation some time back and told the participants that Bangladesh presented a very attractive and low cost alternative production base for Hong Kong investors who were looking for new locations for investment.

S A Jalal, Commissioner, Bangladesh Commission in Hong Kong briefed the participants about the existing good relations between the peoples of Hong Kong and Bangladesh and the ever increasing relation and cooperation in business and investments.

He highlighted the excellent investment in Bangladesh following the announcement of the new liberal "industrial policy 1991" by the democratically elected government of Bangladesh.

He also recalled with grati-

Indian SC orders status quo on Babri Mosque

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: India's Supreme Court, tackling an issue that has sparked religious riots across the country, has ordered a state government not to build a new temple on the site of an old mosque, reports Reuter.

The Supreme Court said in a ruling on Friday the status quo of the shrine should be maintained until the High Court in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh decides to which religion the shrine belongs.

The Supreme Court said the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh would be responsible for ensuring the Ayodhya Mosque is not tampered with.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh recently acquired land around the 450-year-old mosque in the ancient holy town Ayodhya. Hindu militants claim the site as the birth place of their god - king Lord Rama.

tude the unprecedented assistance rendered by the people and government of Hong Kong for the relief of the victims of the cyclone disaster earlier this year.

Nur, in his key note speech, enumerated the specific incentives and advantages available to foreign investors in Bangladesh in the wake of new industrial policy spelling out liberal financial measures of the government.

He discussed in detail about the opportunities and advantages of investments in the EPZAs in Bangladesh.

Body for South Asian journalists to be launched next March

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: An organisation for the working journalists of South Asian countries will be formally launched in Dhaka in the first week of March next year, reports BSS.

This was decided at the three-day conference of the journalists of the region which ended in the Indian capital today.

A preparatory committee for the proposed organisation will meet in Dhaka in the first week of February next.

The Delhi conference, co-sponsored by National Union of Journalists of India (NUJI), the Independent Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Brussels and FES, a German foundation to promote trade union activities in the world, unanimously resolved that a South Asian Journalists Forum was necessary to fight for the job security, professional safety, training and development of journalist unions and for furthering regional cooperation amongst the respective country unions.

The conference was participated by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Sri Lankan Journalists Association (SJA), Nepalese Journalists Association (NJA), Indian Journalists Union (IJU), besides the National Union of Journalists of India (NUJI).

Aidan White, Secretary General of IFJ, representative of IOFTU, UNICEF, and Red Cross of India also participated in the conference.

The BFUJ delegation led by its President Rezauddin Ahmed comprised Messrs BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, former President of the Jatiya Press Club Gias Kamal Chowdhury, DUJ President Zahurul Huq and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi.

The concluding session of the conference was addressed by Indian Information Minister Ajit Panja while Labour Minister Sangma exchanged views with the participant journalists on the opening day.



Teachers of six universities brought out a procession in the city on Saturday demanding government measures to end campus violence. —Star photo

Bhashani's death anniversary

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people and the country above everything", he said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday expressed her government's firm determination to build a corruption and exploitation-free, happy and prosperous Bangladesh which Maulana Bhasani cherished all-through his life.

In a message the Prime Minister said the selfless dedicated leader always strived for a democratic administration under a people-oriented nationalist leadership which has been established.

Begum Zia said that the late leader was also uncompromising in the struggle for realisation of the democratic rights of the oppressed working class.

Maulana Bhasani Jatiya Smriti Parishad would hold a discussion at the auditorium of Jatiya Grantha Kendra at Bangabandhu Avenue in the afternoon which would be at-

tended by Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz as chief guest.

Bangabir Osman Smriti Parishad, Osmani Samajshobha-Gabeshena Sangsad, Bangladesh National Awami Party (Bhasani-Nap) and Hindu Okkya Front will hold separate discussions in memory of Maulana Bhasani in their respective party offices at the afternoon.

Jatiya Janata Party will place floral wreaths at the portrait of Maulana Bhasani at 9 am at its central office and will hold a discussion at 10 am at the same venue.

Jatiya Gannatrantrik Party (JAGPA) will place wreaths at the mazar of late leader at Santosh and offer feteha. It will feed the destitutes in Dhaka at noon and will organise an open discussion at Gulistan-Nawabpur square at 3 pm. National Republican Party will hold a discussion and feed the poor on the occasion.

The leaders of Jukta Front will go to Santosh and place wreaths at the mazar of Maulana and will hold discussion at the mazar premises.

Bangladesh Garib Dal will also go to Santosh to offer feteha and place wreaths at the mazar. It will hold a rally at the Gulistan Square at the afternoon.

Bangladesh Islami Party will organise a discussion meeting at its central office at Kakrail in the evening.

Bangladesh Jana Parishad will hold a discussion at 115, New Circular Road on the occasion of 15th anniversary of death of Maulana Bhasani.

Rishiz Shilpi Gosti will organise a discussion and gana sanget in front of the National Press Club in the afternoon.

Students block Dhaka-Aricha highway

SAVAR, Nov 16: A group of student activists this afternoon reportedly blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway for more than two hours demanding release of one of their leaders, reports UNB.

They also damaged five vehicles on the highway during the blockade created by burning tires on the road.

Sources said the students were demanding release of Toufiq Imam Colonel, identified as a leader of JCD Savar College unit, who was arrested on Thursday in connection with several cases.

The road-blockade was withdrawn at about 7:30 pm after the local MP Neamatullah Sabu gave assurance that release of the student leader would be expedited.