

People-oriented: Treasury Bench Budget meant for urban people: Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 19 MPs belonging to both the Treasury Bench and the Opposition in Parliament discussed the proposed budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year yesterday.

The Treasury Bench members defended the budget saying it was "sympathetic to the interest of the people" while the opposition members criticised it for its "indifference to the people living in the rural areas."

Some of the Treasury benches, however, echoed the opposition members and expressed dissatisfaction at the Finance Minister's proposal for withdrawal of subsidy from the agriculture sector.

The Opposition, participating in the discussion, was represented by Awami League, Bangladesh Communist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

BSS adds: Syed Manzoor Hossain (BNP-Nababganj) described the proposed budget as 'people-oriented' and said it would help accelerate the pace of development and create

more job opportunities in the country.

Initiating the general discussion on the budget for the day, Hossain called for national consensus on various issues so that the nation could march toward progress and prosperity.

The Treasury Bench member was critical of the post-independent period saying the nation had to pay heavily for the mistakes it had made by nationalising the industries.

He suggested to introduce subsidy on jute to save the jute sector. He also urged the government to construct the Jamuna Bridge and bring about development in all areas of the country.

Speaking next, Mohammad Yusuf (CPB-Chittagong) urged the government to take proper steps to save the people and crops from the erosion of the river Karnaful. He alleged that the cutting of trees in large number in his area was responsible for deforestation.

Shahjahan Chowdhury (Jamaat-Chittagong) said although there existed some elements of dynamism in the budget, it was meant for 30 percent of the total population and ignored the interest of the rest 70 per cent.

He urged the government to announce a proper import policy so that the country would not have to depend entirely on imported goods. He said it was also important for the development of industries in the country.

1.38 cr jobless youths

The number of unemployed youth in the country is about 1.38 crore, Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Sharfuddin Ahmed, he said the government has continued its efforts to send unemployed youths abroad.

They are being sent through the Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd and other recruiting agencies in the private sector, the minister said.



Malabika Mitra, a noted Indian dancer and Shoma Momtaz of Bangladesh performing at a function organised by Katha Kali at national Museum Auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

Dhaka-Yangon talks

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The meeting discussed different aspects of repatriation issue including security of the Rohingyas, return of their properties, guarantee for all civil rights of the Rohingyas including their right to practise religion, accept service in government organisation, own properties, and receive education.

The Myanmar side also agreed to return houses of the Rohingyas they had left behind.

Myanmar team leader also informed the meeting that there was no fresh movement of troops along its border and that some immigration department officials only were

moving in their border areas.

Bangladesh team handed over to Myanmar a fresh list of Rohingyas to be examined and repatriated.

Bangladesh team leader Omar Faruk said that after the three-hour official level meeting he and members of his team visited Kainda Bazar area at Maungdow and that they found a normal condition there. They also met the imam of Maungdow jam-e-masjid, who told them that there was nothing wrong at the moment.

In reply to a question Omar Faruk said that repatriation of Rohingyas would take place as soon as they spontaneously agree to go back.

Eliada

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McCord was school girl who came to Bangladesh on an education tour and became the "scapegoat" in the case.

She confessed everything to the police and helped the law enforcing agencies arrest two "actual" accused in the case, he pointed out.

Upon his petition CMM Shahiduddin Ahmed fixed July 30 as the date to pass the order.

Two arrested accused are Nigerian citizen Robert Blankson and South African national Goddy Ochundo, now in Dhaka Central Jail.

McCord was arrested from Zia International Airport February 25 with three kilograms of heroin strapped to her thighs on her way to Zurich, Switzerland.

Meanwhile, police chargesheeted five accused in the case July 14.

Mona Murder case

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Meanwhile, Dhaka citizens have expressed their frustration over the snail pace of the investigation into the murder.

They believe that the case should be handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for prompt result.

They also expressed their dismay over the inactive role played by the police due to which the hijackers managed to reach Tongi although the police were on all point alert immediately after the incident.

Private company

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sent to the Prime Minister, Syed Manzoor Hossain MP, "Coordinator" and one Sheikh Noor-ul-Islam, "facilitator."

However, the Foreign Minister brushed aside existence of such deal and said "similar letter could very well be made by photocopying."

"I can say with stress that the visit was made at the invitation of Bush," he added.

Azam's writ

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Article 3 of the Bangladesh Citizenship Order, 1972, P.O. 149, that the persons specified below do not qualify themselves to be the citizen of Bangladesh", said the notification.

The defence lawyer submitted that Golam Azam was stripped of his citizenship under Article 3 of the citizenship order which said in case of doubt a person can be disqualified to be a citizen of Bangladesh but, Article 2 mentioned about notification in the official gazette, which was not maintained.

Referring to some judgements of early 1960s of the Pakistan Supreme Court, Yusuf said, "if there is any time gap of any incident, show cause is a must."

He particularly mentioned the judgement of the Pakistan Supreme Court in a case in which Zakir Hossain was expelled from Dhaka University. The court in its verdict said that the expulsion without issuing any show cause notice and on the basis of one man's report was a clear violation of natural justice.

The case in brief was that Dhaka University expelled Zakir Hossain for his involvement in an incident during a convocation attended by the then Governor of East Pakistan Monem Khan.

Only one of the 40 member committee constituted to investigate into the matter said he had seen Zakir Hossain was involved in the incident.

He said principle of natural justice shall be read in every enactment. Natural justice applies to judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative proceedings, he added.

The court was adjourned till 10 am Sunday.

Foreign policy under fire

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Minister, were seen assisting the Foreign Minister whispering argument points to him.

The Opposition participants who outnumbered their rivals in the Treasury bench 12-4, based their offensive mainly on the issues of Rohingya refugees and what they said partial solution to the Tin Bigha corridor problem.

The first Opposition shot on the Rohingya refugee issue was fired by Awami League member Tofael Ahmed, later supported by his party colleagues Mohammad Nasim, Begum Motia Chowdhury and Abdur Razzak, Workers Party's Rashed Khan Menon and Ganotantri Party's Suranjit Sengupta.

Noting that not a single refugee had returned home though their repatriation was due to start from May 15 under a Bangladesh-Myanmar agreement, Tofael said "this would not have happened had the Foreign Minister taken the Opposition and the Parliament into confidence at the beginning of the crisis."

He alleged that arms were being sneaked into Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region where a quarter of a million refugees were encamped and said "the region seems to be turning into another Afghanistan and Peshawar." Tofael had another allegation when he said the problem persists, "as the government wanted to pursue a policy on the basis of a blueprint prepared by Pakistan."

Tofael's fiery speech went uninterrupted. But his comrade Abdur Razzak found himself fumbling when Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali intervened when the Awami League member made a wild allegation that a Pakistani Brigadier was providing training to the Rohingyas refugees.

Speaker: Mr Razzak, you must provide evidence in sup-

IBA starts BBA course from this year

By Masud Arif

The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of the Dhaka University will introduce a four-year undergraduate course, styled Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from the coming session (1992-93).

Dr. Rahim B Talukder, Director of the Institute said: "We are thinking of holding the admission test for the BBA course in December this year."

"We will advertise after announcement of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination results this year (1992)." Dr. Talukder told The Daily Star.

The first batch would have provisions for 60 students in a single section, said the IBA Director adding that the number could be increased later.

He said that all the official proceedings had already been completed and approved by the DU Senate in its last meeting.

The IBA Director said that his institute could conduct the course with its present strength of teaching staff and added, "We will recruit more teachers if needed."

The Director said that the IBA was working on matters relating to the curriculum of the proposed course on the basis of its available resources.

Students having passed the HSC or its equivalent would be eligible for admission but the authorities were yet to decide on the minimum requirements — for example at least a First Division at the SSC or the HSC

levels.

They would, however, let the students know about it through advertisements inviting applications for admission, Talukder said.

In 1987, the IBA had taken steps to start the BBA programme and invited applications. About 4,900 forms at Tk. 50 each were sold, but for some 'statute matter' of the University, the institute had to back put. The IBA is yet to refund the money taken as form fees. The IBA Director, however, said that they were thinking of how to refund the fees.

It was alleged that the then IBA authorities had taken the initiative without approval of the concerned DU authorities like the Academic Council, Commerce Faculty, the Syndicate or the Senate.

The Institute since its establishment in 1966 had planned several times to introduce this course, the IBA Director said.

Dr. Talukder believed that if the course could be started it would be very helpful for a large number of students and would stop their going abroad for the BBA degree.

He, however, said that the Institute was advancing day by day and mentioned that it had enough facilities including a well-managed computer network.

Meanwhile, many students were enquiring about the proposed course every day, IBA officials said.

Menon's car rams Mishuk, 3 injured

By DMCH Correspondent

Three people were hurt when the Parliament-bound car of Five-Party Alliance leader Rashed Khan Menon MP, ramed a mishuk in the city Thursday.

The accident took place near the Sonargaon Hotel.

CB Dutta (38) and Sadek Ahmed (40), the mishuk passengers, and its driver, Tara Mia (22), were given first-aid at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

BCI Chairman

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the directors of BCI. Warrants of arrest against the directors were issued by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka.

His arrest came after he surrendered before a High Court division when his bail petition was moved in the middle of May last. The High Court division accepted his surrender and sent him to Dhaka Central Jail while his application for bail had disposed of.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud and Advocate Murad Reza appeared for the petitioner.

Deputy Attorney General Shahabuddin Ahmed appeared for the state.

Tk 41.60 cr US aid to promote fertilizer use

Bangladesh will receive Tk 41.60 crore (approximately 10.7 million US dollars) from the United States in support of joint efforts to increase fertilizer use through improvement in the distribution system, reports UNB.

An agreement to this effect between the two countries was signed here yesterday.

Deputy Secretary of the Economic Relation Division (ERD) Iqbal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Director US Agency for International Development Mary Kilgour initialled the accord on behalf of their respective governments.

Since 1978 the US has provided 285 million dollars assistance to Bangladesh for the fertilizer distribution programmes.

The US, under the new agreement, will fund technical assistance to the public and private sectors from the International Fertilizer Development Centre.

The programme will also finance the import of up to 50,000 metric tons of fertilizer to help ensure adequate supplies for the coming growing season.

The Midnight File

US planes step up flights to and from Dhahran

JEDDAH, July 23: US warplanes have stepped up their flights to and from the eastern Saudi Air Base of Dhahran in the past two days, residents reached by telephone told AFP today. They reported frequent comings and goings by US fighters and transport planes but did not know what the destinations were.

Curfew imposed in Kashmir town

JAMMU, July 23: Curfew was imposed in Bhadarwah town from this morning, following an incident of shooting in a locality of the town last night, resulting in the death of one person. According to the Inspector General of Police, Jammu S S Wazir, one person was seriously injured when militants fired a few rounds at night from Kila Mohalla in the town. Curfew has been imposed to facilitate searches to nab militants responsible for the death, reports PTI.

VHP likely to shift

Police patrolled the temple site, 100 feet (30 metres) from the adjacent 16th century mosque, as paramilitary central police force officers ringed the Islamic shrine as a precaution against any infringement by the Hindu zealots.

At least 24 people died when police fired in 1990 to quell thousands of Hindus who tried twice to tear down the disputed mosque with their bare hands.

VP Singh

The Janata Dal-leader VP Singh, Thursday called for a national reconciliation on the Ayodhya issue and favoured construction of a temple for lord Ram in Ayodhya under the sponsorship of a trust formed out of collective effort.

Addressing a press conference here, he said the Supreme Court observations Wednesday had given an opening for initiating a dialogue among the concerned parties for harmonising three important aspects of the issue — upholding the constitution and the judiciary, protecting the concern of minorities regarding Babri-Masjid and respecting the Hindu sentiments of a temple for Ram in Ayodhya.

Another reports says, the Supreme Court yesterday adjourned the hearing on the Ayodhya dispute to July 27 to enable the Uttar Pradesh government to explore a political solution to the impasse on the ongoing construction of a structure on the acquired land around the Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid complex in violation of court orders.

Commercial banks

From Page 1 Col 7 States Agency for International Development (USAID) was now working on modalities to reform in the banking sector.

The two international organisations are also considering some propositions on off-loading of the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs).

It is also learnt that one of the propositions is to divest some of the large NCBs to several parties on the basis of branch wise sale.

A branch or a group of branches may operate as individual banks in the country.

Sources say this branch wise sale is necessary as the NCBs have huge assets. The division of branches will make the offloading smooth.

In yet another move to streamline banking the proposal might stipulate that only those new banks having branches in village would be allowed to operate in the country.

This measure clearly indicated that the city based banks have not contributed to the overall development of the country's economy, sources said.

The government issue Taka 1700 crore bonds at 7.5 per cent interest last year to the NCBs to off set their staggering losses. The same amount has been provided in this fiscal year's budget, sources said.

Termination

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"hearing of some of the cases were hampered on the day."

He said that AAG Hoane Ara submitted her resignation Wednesday but that there was no time to process it.

Court sources said that two terminated Assistant Attorneys General Obaidur Rahman Mostofa and Delwar Hossain were assisting the AG in the Golam Azam case. The AG retained Mostofa as his personal junior during Thursday's hearing, the source added.

One of the terminated Assistant Attorneys General told The Daily Star by telephone that he received a letter issued on Wednesday from the Ministry of Law signed by the Secretary (Incharge) Mirza Asaduzzaman Al Faruk.

When contacted over telephone the Law Secretary said that most of terminated attorneys earlier worked with the five High Court branches outside the capital. He did not elaborate.

Editor : S. M. Ali
Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at the Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box. No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.