No reason to enhance fuel price, says Saifur

Former Finance Minister Saifur Rahman Saturday said he didn't see a single logic behind the fuel price hike and termed the government as 'most insensitive' to people's grievances, reports UNB.

The government's claim of loss for the increase in petroleum prices in the international market is 'totally distorted and manipulated', he said at a discussion here in the evening.

"The decision to enhance the fuel price is based on the arrogance of the government. It is totally abuse of power...the government attitude is — I will do as I wish because I am in power."

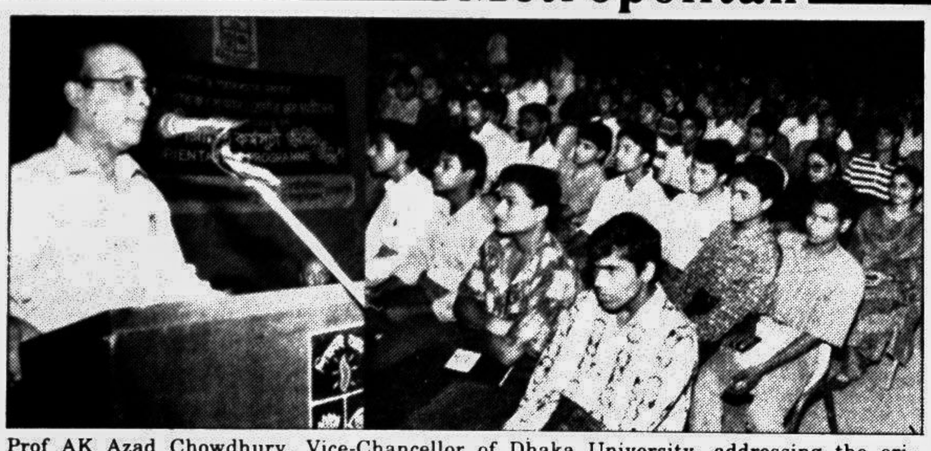
The discussion was organised by 'Shata Nagorik Committee', a forum of pro-BNP intellectuals, at the Jatiya Press Club. Former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed chairee the meeting.

Saifur said the price enhancement of petroleum products in the international market is not a permanent feature. "This type of temporary price hike never last for more than one or two months," he said.

Referring to implementation of the new Pay Scale, he said if the government want to implement it from November, it would have to cut the ADP size down, or would have to go for deficit financing because it was no money in hand.

"Even the amount allocated for the pay scale is not in the hand of government due to huge revenue shortfall," he added.

Turning to lodging of a large number of cases with the High Court regarding duty, the former minister said this happened as the government has given unlimited discretionary power to the customs house.



Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, addressing the orientation programme of the students of first year honours class (1996-97 session) of the departments of Sociology, Political Science and Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) yesterday.

Publication ceremony held

CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: The publication ceremony of "Bangabandhu: As Seen by Personal Physician," a book written by National Professor Nurul Islam, was held here this evening (Sunday), reports UNB.

City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was the chief guest at the function, organised by Anwara Noor Welfare Trust, a social organisation, at the local press club.

Mannan condoles death of party leader

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed deep shock at the death of Nabinagar thana BNP vice-president Advocate Abul Kashem, reports UNB.

In a message of condolence yesterday, Bhuiyan recalled the contributions of the late leader, prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Zillur to attend confce in Jakarta

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and Deputy Leader of Parliament Zillur Rahman left capital for Jakarta Saturday night to attend a 14-nation regional workshop on "poverty alleviation and rural development," reports BSS.

Rahman, who leads a two-member delegation, will present the paper at the workshop, organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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Indian HC opens condolence book on Mother Teresa

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has opened a condolence book on the death of Mother Teresa, reports BSS.

The book will remain open at the High Commission premises at House: 120, Road: 2, Dhanmondi, from 9 am to 2 pm on today and tomorrow, a press release said.

Dr Malek calls on President

Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Dr Malek stayed with the President for some time and exchanged views on the present situation in the country.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin welcomed Dr Malek and exchanged pleasantries with him.

CDA of Brazil hosts reception

Mario Cesar de Mores Pitao, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Brazil in Bangladesh, hosted a reception yesterday afternoon in celebration of the independence day of his country, reports BSS.

Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy, political leaders, officials, diplomats, journalists and elite of the city were present.

What's on today....

Prize-distribution ceremony: Primary and Mass Education Division has arranged a prize-distribution ceremony in observance of International Literacy Day. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium. Time : 10:30 am. Chief guest: President Shahabuddin Ahmed.

CAMPE: Campaign for Popular Education has arranged a cultural function marking International Literacy Day. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time : 4 pm.

Proshika: A discussion meeting, prize-distribution and cultural function will be held. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 3 pm. Chief guest: Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zinatun Nessa Talukdar.

UNAB: A discussion meeting will be held marking International Literacy Day. Venue: UNAB office, 55 Dilkusha. Time : 5 pm.

Roundtable: A roundtable conference to focus different aspects of child labour in Bangladesh will be held. Time 9.30 am. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium.

Memorial meeting: A memorial meet will be held to mark the 1st death anniversary of Abdus Shaheed, journalist and litterateur. Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra, Bangla Motor. Time: 5 pm. Organiser: Abdus Shaheed Sangsad.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The weekly meeting will be held: Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:30 pm.

Roundtable on IIFC: A two-day roundtable conference to formulate the institutional arrangements on the proposed Infrastructural Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC) will begin. Venue: 'Surma', Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Finance Minister SAMS Kibria.

Obituary

Razina Khan, wife of Nurul Amin Khan Pathan, former deputy minister for health and family planning died of cancer in a local clinic on Friday last. She was 46, reports BSS.

BFUJ, DUJ joint meeting today

A joint meeting of the executive committees of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held today at 11 am in the hall room of the Jatiya Press Club, reports BSS.

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Thu	SV813	Dhaka	Via Riyadh to Jeddah	Dhaka-1200 Riyadh-1445/1610	1750
Fri	SV811	Dhaka	Riyadh	1200	1455
Sun	SV811	Dhaka	Riyadh	1200	1455

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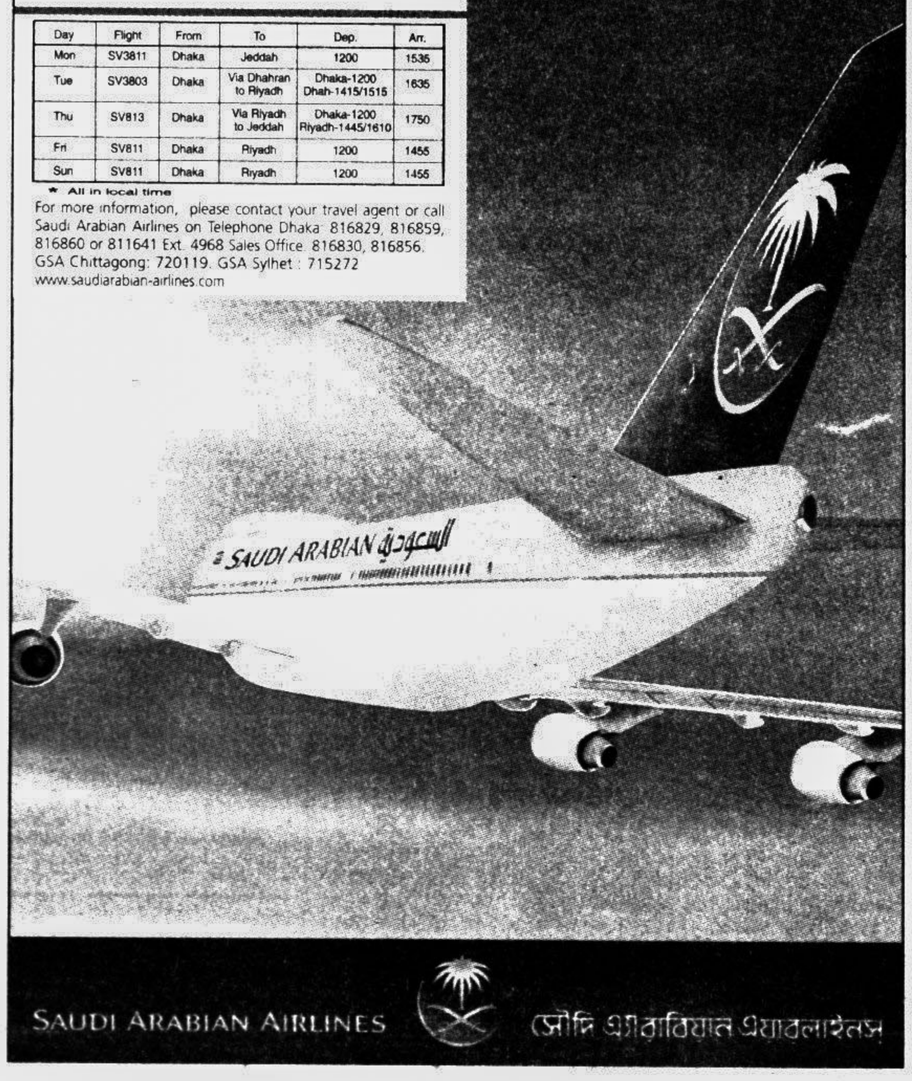

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