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HC suggests 'Anti-Anti-corruption Bureau'

By M Shamsur Rahman
A Division Bench of the High Court in a judgement has suggested formation of an "Anti-Anti-Corruption Bureau" to check "corruption within the Anti-Corruption Bureau."

The bureau should be constituted by the President and it should be answerable to him, it said.

The suggestion by Justice Golam Rabbani and Justice Latifur Rahman came while delivering a judgement in a case filed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a construction firm praying for quashment of a case filed by the Gazipur district anti-corruption officer with local police. The judgement was delivered on June 3.

The anti-corruption officer had lodged an FIR with the local police against Lailun Nahar Ekram, CEO of Engineer and Consultants (Bangladesh) Ltd (ECLB) alleging misappropriation of Tk 11.80 lakh by her.

In the FIR, the officer com-

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Industrial workers begin 48-hr strike in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 14: The first day of the 48-hour strike by industrial workers was observed in six industrial areas here today, reports UNB.

CBA and non-CBA Coordination Council of private sector jute, yarn and textiles mills called the countrywide strike demanding declaration of wage commission.

The strikers put up a barricade at Alankar crossing at Pahartali, Kadamasul and Shitalpur in Sitakundu and at Fouzdarhat on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, Kalurghat on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road, and at Patenga suspending road communication on the routes from 6 am to 5 pm.

The workers took to the street when police tried to remove the barricades at Pahartali and Kalurghat. Police resorted to baton charge on them leaving 20 workers injured.

The agitated workers held rallies at all points and threatened a greater movement if their demand is not fulfilled immediately.

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Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains two special supplements, one on Milk and Milk Products on Page-5 and the other on National Tree Plantation Drive on Page-10

Prayer Timings

June 15		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
4:20	4:25	
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:50	5:00
Maghrib	7:00	7:05
Esha	7:55	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

We give you MORE

No match today. The first semifinal between Pakistan and New Zealand will take place at Old Trafford tomorrow. Bangladesh Television and Star Sports will telecast the match live from 3:45 pm.

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Budget reaction

Claim of no fresh tax a travesty of truth: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman has said the government's claim of no new tax in the proposed national budget for fiscal 1999-2000 is a travesty of truth to deceive the people.

"This is hoodwinking the people," said the BNP stalwart. "Any tax, which did not exist before and is now collected through the legislative method under the provision of the finance act, is new tax. The specific tax provisions and taxes to be collected through the PSI system are all new taxes."

He also noted that the proposed budget has violated the rationality of different types of taxation because of 'fiscal and monetary illiteracy' of the government.

Saifur was giving BNP's reaction on the proposed budget at a press briefing at the official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and party chief Khaleda Zia in the city yesterday.

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Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman

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VAT is for revenue collection and income tax is the fundamental tax on income.

"But the government is using these for other purposes. For example, VAT has been imposed on imported ballpoint pen to protect local industry. Investment on cars has been subjected to income tax. This shows that instead of promoting investment, this is being discouraged. On the other hand, supplementary duty has been imposed on almost all items instead of luxury items only. At the same time, import can not be subjected to advance income tax since import does not mean income."

He also alleged that the finance minister had placed the figures in wrong context and made 'concocted analysis'.

Saifur, however, praised some measures including reduction of duties on raw materials and giving 'machinery' status to some items.

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BNP plans to punish Akhteruzzaman

By Rezaul Karim

BNP plans to take punitive action against party MP Akhteruzzaman on charge of public statement against the June 13 hartal.

"A process has already started within the party for taking punitive action against the MP as demand for this has been raised from all levels in the party," said a top BNP leader.

Akhter opposed the hartal called by the BNP-led opposition alliance to protest the proposed budget for fiscal 1999-2000. He told the press "we can't observe the hartal imposed on BNP's shoulders by Jamaat and Jatiya Party." He also urged the people not to respond to the call for "so-called" shutdown.

Sources said the statement evoked sharp reaction within BNP and top leaders of the party

and its front organisations have demanded disciplinary action against the MP.

Leaders of different front organisations at a joint meeting on Saturday strongly demanded of party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who chaired the meeting, to take disciplinary action against Akhter.

Bhuiyan told the meeting that he would convey the sentiment of the meeting to party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and discuss the matter with her.

"Almost all senior leaders and policy makers of BNP have shown tough attitude toward Akhter and all are in favour of taking disciplinary measure against him," said the BNP leader, who wanted not to be named.

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BNP MPs resent enforcement of hartal

Some BNP lawmakers have expressed resentment over enforcement of countrywide hartal on Sunday protesting the national budget, reports UNB.

The resentment came at the parliamentary party meeting of BNP at the Sangsad Bhaban last night.

"It was necessary to consult with senior leaders and party lawmakers before calling the hartal. Enforcement of general strike on the instant decision of the liaison committee of opposition alliance was not appropriate," a senior lawmaker was quoted to have told the meeting. His voice was echoed by a number of other members.

Sources close to the meeting told UNB last night that the statement of Kishoreganj BNP lawmaker Maj (rtd) Akhteruzzaman also came up during the 3-hour meeting that was presided over by party chairman Khaleda Zia.

The former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman briefed the party legislators on the merits and demerits of the budget presented in Parliament on Thursday. He spoke of the party strategy of deliberations on the budget.

Sources said Begum Zia asked the members to focus on corruptions of the government leaders that affected the administration and national economy.

The meeting also decided to take action against Akhteruzzaman in accordance with the party constitution.

Fazlur Rahman Patal, Syed Mehdi Rumi, Shamsuzzaman Dudu and Ziaul Haq Zia were, among others, who took part in the discussion.

According to police and hospital sources, the gang led by one Chanchal, called Awal out of his residence at about 1 am yesterday. His body was later found in a jhool near his residence at about 2 am.

The dead was identified as Awal alias Khokon, 21, son of Akbar Ali, a resident of North Begunbari area, police said. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Though his body was arrested in this connection till filing of this report, the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Mother of the victim, Razia Akhter filed a case with Tejgaon thana.

None, however, was arrested in this connection till filing of this report. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

On the basis of the injury marks that Awal's body bore, police suspected that the gang had hacked him with a Chinese axe.

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