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HC suggests

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plained that the CEO had misappropriated the money by submitting a false bill for consultancy services for the Institute of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) at Gazipur.

The ECBL was engaged in construction and consultancy work under a contract signed on December 14, 1993. As per the contract, ECBL entitlements stood at Tk 26.97 lakh for designing, topographic survey and soil test.

In the course of the work, IPSA authorities had requested ECBL to include in the survey a link road connecting IPSA with the Shimultali-Salna Road in the master plan.

In the FIR, it was alleged that the CEO took the money by submitting bills No. one and two on March 11, 1994 and May 19, 1994 respectively for boring fifty-one holes for the topographic survey and again took an equal amount for the same work through bill No three on June 30, 1994.

The lawyer for the petitioner argued that the bill number three was paid partly and errors in it were corrected by submitting a new bill long before filing of the FIR.

The lawyer further said that the district anti-corruption officer had 'acted malafide' by questioning the accuracy of the bill which was corrected soon after by submitting another bill while the final bill was yet to be submitted.

Also said that the FIR was filed although the IPSA did not make any complaint in this regard.

After hearing both the sides, the judges quashed the proceedings of the case filed by the anti-corruption officer and discharged the CEO from bail bond.

According to the judgement, the Deputy Attorney General 'failed to satisfy (the judges) about the cause and the necessity of lodging the FIR without the concurrence of IPSA.'

'This is a case where we smell corruption even in the act of an anti-corruption officer,' the verdict said. 'The sad pun is, we require an anti-anti-corruption bureau and so on to check corruption.'

'Therefore, before we part with the instant case, we feel duty bound to suggest ways to wipe out corruption from our society which is sine qua non for our honourable existence among the nations of the world,' the judges said.

The judges suggested two ways to eliminate corruption. One is by formation of an 'anti-anti-corruption bureau' by the President of the republic. The bureau will be constituted by him and it will be answerable to him.

The second way is to introduce a curriculum to wipe out the evil desire from the minds starting from school level.

'Education of children is an important affair. His heart is like a fine and clean precious stone, free of all engravings and writings. It is capable of every sort of development. If he is educated to become accustomed to what is good, he will surely follow truth even when grown up. The lack of proper education ruins the child,' the judges observed while suggesting the ways.

Akhteruzzaman

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He said the MP was served with show-cause notice twice and given verbal warning for a number of times to refrain from making any public statement against the party. In the past, the BNP Chairperson and the Secretary General had also asked Akhter not to make any comment in future that puts the party in an embarrassing situation.

A policy maker of BNP said each time Akhter had apologised for his 'misdeed' and assured that he would never play any wrong game in future. The party had barred him from all organisational activities, accusing him of breaching party discipline in January, 1998, he pointed out.

That time BNP had almost decided to expel him from the party as he wrote an open letter to Begum Zia and distributed it among party MPs.

But finally, Begum Zia had forgiven Akhter and warned him not to do so in future. At that time, he had appeared before the Standing Committee of BNP on January 12, 1998 and given a written apology, the policy maker said.

Sources said some senior BNP leaders, who favoured Akhter in the past and was opposed to taking any serious action against him are now 'very much' annoyed with him for his recent statement.

Replying to a question, an influential party leader said Akhter may be served with show-cause notice soon. 'He may have to face tough time again for his wrong doing,' he said. 'But there is less possibility of expelling him from the party.'

'We have long been in a dilemma... It's now very difficult for us to retain him or oust him from the party. Possibly the party will proceed slowly in taking action against him this time. But it will seriously think while giving nomination in the next election,' he said.



Members of 'Movement to Save 11,000 Trees at Osmany Udyan' organised a walkathon yesterday from the Udyan to Bahadur Shah Park in the city.

Star photo

Travesty of truth, says BNP

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'We will raise specific demands in the parliament to remove the anti-people, anti-poor and anti-investment measures in the proposed budget,' he said.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said 'If our demands are not met, we will call further hartals.'

Saifur also questioned the authenticity of the government's claim of 5.2 per cent GDP growth.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria had told the aid consortium meeting that the expected GDP growth is about 4 per cent.

A few days later, he raised the figure to 5.2 per cent. But, Saifur said, there was no such bumper production that it compensated for the loss of aman crop and pushed the growth rate to such a level.

The government is taking all the credit for steering clear of the South East Asian crisis. But it was the BNP government that discouraged any short-term foreign loans. The finance minister is not giving us due credit,' Saifur went on.

'On the other hand, we had raised savings-investment ratio from 8 per cent in 1990-91 to 17 per cent. The finance minister is now claiming that the ratio is 17 per cent, which shows there had not been any improvement in this field.

Again, look at the share market situation. The finance minister has imposed a lock-in for local investors. This is ridiculous. Lock-ins are meant for foreign investors, not local ones,' said Saifur.

He also castigated the finance minister for alleging that the BNP government had destroyed the country's agriculture. 'It was under our government that food production was

raised by 19.5 per cent. It is still hovering around that figure.'

The BNP stalwart further questioned the government's claims of locally financing 50 per cent of ADP. 'There is already a huge revenue shortfall. So, to prove local financing, the government will have to borrow from the banks at the highest of the private sector.'

He said the projected 22.5 per cent revenue growth is unrealistic. This government 'could not even achieve a 10 per cent growth target. How can it achieve its tall figures?'

Saifur termed the finance minister's statement on the current status of bank loan default 'dangerous'. He quoted the

India has closed all doors for talks: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, June 14: Accusing India of using chemical weapons in its battle over the disputed Kashmir region, Pakistan also today said New Delhi had closed the door to a negotiated settlement, reports AP.

The basic difference between our position and the Indian position is that the Indians have closed the door to negotiations and want to settle the issue with the use of military force,' said Foreign Ministry spokesman Tariq Altaf.

He said Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh turned down an invitation by Sartaj Aziz to visit Pakistan for further talks during their failed meeting in New Delhi Saturday.

'We stand for peace, while India stands for war-mongering,' he told reporters in the federal capital.

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fected,' he said.

But others gave different views. A Dhaka University professor said buyers of flats or houses are better off people in the society. 'If one can spend Tk 20 lakh, he can well afford to pay one lakh more,' he said requesting anonymity.

He however said that in view of the acute accommodation crisis in urban areas, the government should give some incentives to encourage people to buy flats.

REHAB officials expressed their dismay at the proposed imposition of advance income tax on both residential and commercial buildings. They said when a developer submits his building plan he is already burdened with a huge cost. Moreover, nobody can give assurance that the project will be profitable. The developer does not know how long he will have to wait to sell his flats or houses and make a profit, they said.

'This sector was never given any incentive by the government. We had to make our own way to come this far. Now this advance income tax will throw many of us out of business,' said a REHAB member.

When asked for comment, an NBR official said real estate development is one of the biggest sectors in the country generating huge sums. The government needs to take this measure considering hundreds of cases of alleged tax evasion, he said.

From the beginning of the second round, a certain quarter tried to seek undue benefit from the oil companies in exchange of blocks. This has made some of the genuine and experienced investors so frustrated that they no longer feel interested to work in Bangladesh,' a source claimed.

The developers have, however, welcomed the government move to withdraw VAT on all imported timber and wood. They said now they will be able to import timber for fittings in buildings without depending on local timber which is costly.

Mobil withdraws

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submitting its proposals for the most prospective blocks 9 and 11. Their team-up itself was considered a winning strategy in the bid,' observed another source.

Petronas commands international respect and BAPEX could not find a better opportunity than getting such strong partners in such valuable blocks.

Unfortunately, instead of Mobil-Petronas-BAPEX joint venture, the government leaned towards the small Irish company Tullow for an ambitious work programme of drilling 10 exploratory wells in each block in the first three years.

Bangladesh has no record of achieving such a drilling programme. In fact, an experienced company like Occidental failed to 'drill' a single exploratory well in the first three years in blocks 13 and 14,' the source pointed out.

Government's leaning towards Tullow regarding blocks 9 and 11 ultimately drove away Chevron-Texaco joint venture (in block 9) after

some 'partnership talks' between Tullow and Chevron-Texaco. Mobil-Petronas-BAPEX was also asked by the government to strike a partnership with Tullow in Block 11. But no company could agree on various aspects of the partnership deal.

'Some 21 companies had submitted proposals under the Second Round Block Bidding two years ago and Petrobangla was so happy about the oil companies' interest. But now, only a handful of companies are actually pursuing the blocks,' said a source.

The companies which are currently negotiating with the government are Unocal, Shell (and Cairn), Maersk, Enron and Pangaia. Enron and Pangaia may withdraw from the bidding, the sources said.

From the beginning of the second round, a certain quarter tried to seek undue benefit from the oil companies in exchange of blocks. This has made some of the genuine and experienced investors so frustrated that they no longer feel interested to work in Bangladesh,' a source claimed.



Catch Oxy
Bangladesh Chhatria Federation brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding compensation from Occidental for the Magurhara blow-out.

Mudslinging overshadows JS budget debate

By Staff Correspondent

The general debate on the supplementary budget for fiscal 1998-99 continued in the Jatiya Sangsad for the second day yesterday with the Treasury Bench members endorsing an increased expenditure of Tk 4,500 crore and the Opposition disapproving this.

The ruling party MPs found the extra expenditure justified as, according to them, most of the amount was spent in relief and rehabilitation projects during and after the devastating flood last year. But the opposition members refused to approve the additional allocation on the ground that lions share of the money was spent on various non-development heads.

During the debate on the supplementary budget, observations about the proposed bud-

get for fiscal 1999-2000 also came from members belonging to both the Treasury and the Opposition benches. And as usual, the two sides came up with opposing views on the proposed measures.

Besides, mud-slinging between the benches frequently overshadowed debates on the budget.

However, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed claimed that the country's industrial growth in the current fiscal year was 3.8 per cent, while the rate had come down due to the devastating flood. The minister accused the Opposition of making misleading statements on the proposed budget.

Accusing the BNP of pursuing a pro-Indian commerce

policy during its rule, Tofail said that the government of Khaleda Zia had slashed heavily customs duty to open the border for Indian products.

Under SAPTA, the BNP government had accepted free movement of Indian vessels through Bangladesh's navigation routes to transport Indian goods from one part to another part of that country, Tofail said.

'But as mud-slinging between the benches frequently overshadowed debates on the budget.

Referring to BNP's praise for late President Ziaur Rahman as 'announcer of independence', Tofail said, 'The role of a freedom fighter sometimes can be worse than that of a Razakar' and Ziaur Rahman is a classic example of that.'

Fazlur Rahman Patal of BNP took the floor to urge Tofail to refrain from 'unnecessarily criticising Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia' for the sake of the better future of the nation. 'Please do not belittle yourself by trying to belittle them.'

Earlier, Mashirul Rahman of BNP strongly opposed the idea of approving a 'huge supplementary budget primarily because the lions share of the money had been spent in unproductive sector.'

Responding to a ruling party MP's allegation that Khaleda Zia's son made a lot of money by using the good offices of the former prime minister, the BNP lawmaker retorted: 'Khaleda's sons borrowed money from the banks for investments. But there are allegations that Mujib's son had literally robbed the bank when the later was in power.'

Accident

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12-year boy Rezul Karim.

The minibus then overturned killing three others on the spot. Another succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. The dead were identified as Jamal Uddin, 24, of village Nayamatli, Haris Ali, 40, of Batram and Abdus Sobhan, 32, of Telijuri. The driver and helpers of the minibus managed to escape.

The agitated villagers put barricade on the road demanding immediate arrest of the driver and helpers. However, the police cleared the road after about five hours.

Earlier, a day-long hartal was called at Jaintapur tomorrow to press for immediate payment of the compensation for the family members of 13 persons who were killed in a tragic road accident that took place on Sylhet-Tamabil Road on April 25 this year.

জাতীয় শিক্ষাক্রম ও পাঠ্যপুস্তক বোর্ড

পাঠ্যপুস্তক ত্বরণ

৬৯-৩০, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২১৯

তারিখ: ১৩-৬-১৯৯৯

নবম-দশম ও একাদশ-দ্বাদশ শ্ৰেণীৰ ইংৰেজি পাঠ্যপুস্তক প্ৰযোজনেৰ উদ্দেশ্যে পটেনশিয়াল (potential) লেখক নিৰ্বাচনেৰ জন্য আবেদনপত্ৰ আহ্বান।

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