

Saifur faces resistance within on reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman has indicated that 'resistance' from within the ruling party is hindering good governance and implementation of reforms.

He said despite all his efforts, reforms could not be expedited and different independent institutions necessary for good governance were yet to be set up.

The minister said this when asked why the government is buying time to implement its election pledge to expedite reforms, set up independent anti-corruption commission, office of ombudsman, national human rights commission and such other institutions and to separate the judiciary.

He was exchanging views with economists and civil society leaders on the National Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction, popularly known as PRSP, at the NEC conference room in the city yesterday.

"Despite our election pledge, we could not do any of those in the last nine months. If you ask me, I cannot give you any answer. Go and ask our 198 MPs," the BNP stalwart said.

"If you think I am standing in the way, you are wrong. I am trying to expedite the process, but failed to do so," he added.

Despite its election pledge and repeated reminders from the civil society, the ruling BNP which has 198 members in the parliament is yet to do those.

The government yesterday launched discussions on the poverty reduc-

tion strategy paper and the process will continue till finalisation of the document within this year.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Managing Director of Grameen Bank Dr Muhammad Yunus, former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, economist Wahiduddin Mahmud, FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun, Executive Director of BRAC Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, and Dr Zafullah of Gonoshasthya. Economist Binayek Sen, who is a member of the team for preparing the strategy paper, explained different aspects of the strategy.

Referring to the issues of governance and law and order, the finance minister quoted the proverb "state is the biggest terrorist".

In this connection, he referred to the abuse of power by the police for getting confessional statements from arrested people and also arresting people on suspicion under Section 54 of the CrPC (criminal procedure code). He also mentioned the murder of Rubel in police custody.

Dr Muhammad Yunus said deteriorating law and order, corruption and violence are affecting investment.

"Nothing can work in an environment of limitless corruption and deteriorating law and order. Even the poor borrowers of micro-credit is not sure if their investments are safe," he observed.

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Contempt of court Hasina given 2-month time to explain

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday gave Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina two months to explain why proceedings would not be drawn against her for contempt of court.

A division bench comprising Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice Mirza Hossain Haider granted the time on a petition earlier moved on her behalf by Barrister Amirul Islam.

The rule was issued upon Sheikh Hasina on a petition filed by Advocate Syed Ziaul Karim drawing attention of the court to her reported remarks about the judiciary. The report in weekly Thikana published from USA was reproduced in the Manavzamin.

SAARC Secy Gen arrives today

BSS, Dhaka

The SAARC Secretary General QAMA Rahim arrives in Dhaka today from Kathmandu, the headquarters of the regional forum, on a four-day official visit.

This will be his first official visit since the Bangladeshi diplomat assumed the office early this year.

During his visit Rahim is expected to call on the acting President Jamiruddin Sircar, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, ministers for foreign affairs, finance and planning, commerce, state minister for foreign affairs and state minister for energy and mineral resources.

The SAARC secretary general is also expected to call on the foreign secretary during his visit, sources said.

He is likely to give a talk on "poverty alleviation and SAARC" at the BISS. He will also meet the leaders of FBCCI and speak on WTO and related issues at the Federation Bhaban.

Janakantha editor, newsmen get anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted three weeks' anticipatory bail to the editor, advisory editor, executive editor and three reporters of Dainik Janakantha.

The bail was granted upon a writ petition filed by them against a warrant of arrest issued by the Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children repression, Dhaka earlier in the day.

Those who got bail are Editor Atikullah Khan Masud, Advisory Editor Toab Khan, Executive Editor Borhan Ahmed and reporters Kamrul Hasan, Sankar Kumar Dey and Ali Aigaj Swapon of the daily.

The warrant of arrest was issued following filing of a case by a woman for printing her photo in the daily in connection with an attempted rape case filed by her earlier.

Earlier, the woman had filed an attempted rape case against former

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Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury chats with acting President Jamiruddin Sircar during a courtesy call at the latter's Bangabhaban residence.

See you Senegal

AFP, Osaka

A golden goal from substitute Ilhan Mansiz fired Turkey into a dream semi-final with Brazil and shattered Senegal's dream of becoming the first African side to reach the last four of the World Cup here yesterday.

Mansiz's clinical finish ended a frustrating night for the Turks in the fourth minute of sudden death extra time after a trademark sweeping counter-attack started by Arif Erdem, whose run and pass released Umit Davala down the right.

Davala swept in a low cross and Mansiz, a second-half substitute for Turkish captain Hakan Sukur, met it sweetly on the half-volley to leave Senegal keeper Tony Sylva with no chance.

It was a deserved victory for the Turks, who dominated the Senegalese for most of the 90 minutes of regulation time but were let down by some wayward finishing.

They will now face up to Brazil in Saitama on Wednesday in a replay of their bad-tempered group game,

which Brazil struggled to win 2-1.

Turkish coach Senol Gunes was delighted with the way his players controlled the match.

"It's a fantastic day for Turkish football. We deserved this win and we showed that our players deserve to be at the World Cup," he said.

"We did what we wanted to do but we missed a lot of chances and that cost us the chance to finish the match in the 90 minutes.

"My players have watched a lot of extra-time and I think they wanted to get a taste of it," he joked.

He said his side had every chance of getting past Brazil and reaching the final in Turkey's first World Cup in 48 years.

"Brazil are one of the best teams in the world. Everyone knows that. But we did not deserve to lose our first match against them. It was a mistake by the referee and we were very upset at the time but we have showed in our other matches that we deserved to be in the semi-finals.

"It is 50-50 but the quality of our play is increasing with every game and that is a big advantage for us,"

Gunes said.

Senegal coach Bruno Metsu, who will reportedly take over at Turkish club Gaziantep after the tournament, said he was proud of the way his team, who beat defending champions France in their first match, had performed in Korea and Japan.

"I am very, very proud," he said. "We have come here and shown that we were capable of upsetting the hierarchy of world football. It gives us a lot of hope for the future and the development of football in our country and in Africa."

Metsu also made it clear he believes Turkey could surprise Brazil. "They are a very, very good team with a lot of individual talents playing in some of Europe's biggest league.

"They have only lost once here -- to Brazil -- and they were probably a bit unlucky to lose that match," he said.

"It's tough, it's tough, it's tough," Senegal's Liverpool-bound striker

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PHOTO: STAR

The Swarupkathi river port in Pirojpur district in the southern part of the country is stacked with logs illegally collected from the Sundarbans. The port has now become a major centre for illegal trade in logs as the police and the forest officials keep closing their eyes to the criminal offence.

Sony's death Probe body submits report to PM

UNB, Dhaka

The Inquiry Committee formed by the Education Ministry to probe the death of BUET student Sabequn Nahar Sony submitted its report to the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday (Saturday) afternoon.

The three-member committee was formed on June 11 at the directive of the Prime Minister to investigate the June 8 shootout on BUET campus that left the promising student dead.

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Shihab murder case: Hearing on arguments on June 29

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday fixed June 29 for hearing on arguments in Khondaker Shihab Ahmed abduction and killing case.

After cross-examination of two accused Monir Hossain Liton and Abu Syed Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmed fixed the date.

The accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were brought

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 23	4-15	4-45
June 24	5-12 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-53	6-57
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The untouchables

Most top criminals elude arrest

STAR REPORT

Many top criminals are either hiding in the city or have managed to elude police clutches and left the country, police report indicates.

Some of these most wanted thugs are also reported to have been moving freely within the city despite tight surveillance by a rapid action police force. A joint operation by police and the paramilitary BDR to nab these criminals has failed to yield the results.

The deteriorating law and order forced the government to form on May 12 a 'national committee to dare criminals and conduct joint drives'. The same day, the committee decided to launch a special drive in the city.

According to sources some of the criminals are roaming in their localities and for unknown reasons are escaping arrest.

According to sources, Kala Jahangir, accused in 19 cases with the Cantonment, Mirpur, Kafrol and Pallabi police stations in connection with killings, possession of explosive substances and other criminal activities, is at present staying in the Mohakhali area. He is often spotted in Sat Tala slum in Mohakhali. Son of a schoolmistress, his younger brother is serving in the Bangladesh Army.

Sohel alias Freedom Soheli, accused in two cases with the Dhanmondi and Ramna police stations on charges of murder and possessing explosive substances is living in the city's Nayatola at Maghbazar. He is often spotted loitering near a sporting club at Gopibagh. Police reports show he has close ties with ruling party men.

Khandaker Tanvir Islam alias Joy, accused in eight cases with Mohammadpur, Savar and Kotwali

police stations for murder and other criminal activities, has recently left the country. He had married a foreigner (who is now in England) and has two children. Later he married another woman in Dhaka. Joy had links with a gold smuggling racket and prior to his departure, was seen roaming around the airport, sources said.

Haris Ahmed alias Hares, accused in 18 cases with Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi, Motijheel and Mirpur police stations in connection with murder, abuse of women and other criminal activities, is occasionally seen at Mohammadpur. Sources said he is staying at Noor Jahan Road in the capital. Eldest of five brothers, a younger brother of his is severing in the army as lieutenant colonel and another named Tipu was killed while Haris was in jail. Another

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Saidabad water plant starts supply in July

ABDUL KADER

The Saidabad Water Treatment Plant-1 is likely to be commissioned next month, six months ahead of schedule, sources in WASA said.

It will supply 22.5 crore litres of water daily, which will meet about 18 per cent of the need of the city dwellers.

It will cover Nababpur, Motijheel, Basabo, Mugda, Jattrabari, Shampur and Pagla areas under WASA's Zone-1; Fulbaria, Nayabazar, Hagaribag, Lalbag, Rahamatganj, Dhakeshwari, Chakbazar, Jagannath University College, Islampur, Shakhariabazar and Begumbazar areas under Zone-2 and Mathertak, Dhaka University, Rampura, Nayatola and Banghabondu Stadium areas under Zone-6.

The 750 crore taka plant will also partially cover areas from Green Road to New Market under Zone-3 and Tejgaon industrial area under Zone-3.

Talking to this correspondent WASA's Chief Engineer Kazi Mohammad Shegsh said operation of the project will bring stability in water supply in these areas as it will use the Shitalakhya water for this purpose, forsaking dependence on deep tubewells which go out of order often.

Moreover, it is not possible to sink new deep tubewells in Zone -1, 2 and 6 as the level of groundwater in these areas is going down, he said.

The project financed by the World Bank and the governments of Bangladesh, Japan and France was taken up in 1994 but its implementation began in 1997.

WASA now supplies 128 crore litres of water in the city daily out of the total demand for 160 crore litres.

When contacted, Managing Director of WASA Dr Khandakar Azharul Haq said the demand for water in the city is increasing at the rate of six per cent annually.

To improve the overall water supply situation, WASA will begin implementation of a 150 crore taka project next month for rehabilitation of its deep tubewells and improvement of supply management, he said.

WASA's Saidabad Water Treatment Plant-2 and Plant-3, designed to supply 22.5 crore and 45 crore litres of water daily, will be implemented by 2005 and 2010 respectively. The plants will use the Shitalakhya water for the supplies.

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India in hunt for a president above politics

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India will have a new president on July 16. It is often said that the highest constitutional post must be above party politics and the person occupying it must rise above political considerations.

But the fact remains that barring philosopher and educationist Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and now presidential candidate space scientist A P J Abdul Kalam, all other Indian presidents were politicians before they moved to the presidential palace.

Rajendra Prasad, Zakir Hussain, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, V V Giri, N Sanjiva Reddy, Zail Singh, R Venkataraman, Shankar Dayal Sharma and outgoing President K R Narayanan—all were politicians of the Congress party for long before becoming president.

The president has always been viewed as a check against excesses of the political government of the day, giving them advice and cautioning them if things do not move in the right direction.

While a harmonious relationship between the president and the political government is always desirable, there were occasions when the two did not see eye to eye on some key issues and this resulted in friction between the

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