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CA allays businessmen's fear

Admits reforms negatively affected business confidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders yesterday warned the caretaker government that the ongoing crackdown on corruption has created a 'climate of fear' which might push the economy to ruin, while Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed tried to allay their fears and boost business confidence by proposing a series of business-friendly reforms.

The views were exchanged at the first ever high-level dialogue between the government -- represented by Fakhruddin, Army Chief Moeen U Ahmed, and Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam -- and the business leaders, on the topic of, Bangladesh Economy and Future Perspective, at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the capital.

During his speech to the business leaders, Fakhruddin admitted that the ongoing reforms have 'negatively' affected business confidence, but he said it is not 'unexpected during rapid and significant' changes to the established modalities, while business leaders demanded the government ensures that they will be able to run their businesses without fear of 'undue harassment and regulations'.

In order to thwart the negative effects, Fakhruddin said the government is considering creation of a high-level regulatory reform committee, which will examine the laws and regulations, eliminate redundant and irrelevant laws, and simplify those that are needed.

He also proposed a Bangladesh Better Business Forum, to be chaired by himself, and comprising high-level representatives from the public and private sectors who would identify problems and recommend systemic solutions.

The government also plans to build the capacities of selected government institutions to better

facilitate the private sector, and has plans to initiate a quarterly survey of business confidence so it can 'constantly feel the pulse of the private sector'.

The chief adviser also said the government efforts to support the private sector will also have to incorporate social expectations from businesses, such as creation

of jobs, good affordable products, being environment friendly, and fair and safe workplace conditions.

He said ready-made garments still overwhelmingly dominate the export sector, a phenomenon which 'ought to be changed'.

Noting the problems of bureaucratic bottlenecks, the chief adviser said the government is going to

systematically address the problem of facilitating business needs through administrative and regulatory reforms.

Army Chief Gen Moeen's 11-point proposal included creation of an interim development fund with the confiscated illegally earned money and the fines levied

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BUSINESS CONCERN

- **Fear Factor:** Over-zealous anti-corruption, dismantling of illegal structures and taxation drives
- **Tight Taxation:** Harassment by NBR and law enforcement agencies
- **Lack of Business Confidence:** Uncertainty and fear negatively affecting business climate
- **Legal Confusion:** Uncertainty from unclear legal parameter of corruption
- **Bureaucratic Bottlenecks:** Excessive red-tape and undue harassment from bureaucracy

GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

- **Dialogue:** Plan to create Bangladesh Better Business Forum for public-private sector talks to reduce fear.
- **Pay Rise:** Pay rise for law-enforcement, anti-corruption and tax officials from Oct 1 to reduce harassment
- **Counting Confidence:** Plan to initiate quarterly survey of business confidence
- **Cutting Red Tape:** High-level Regulatory Reform Committee to review laws and remove unnecessary ones
- **Better Bureaucrats:** Capacity-building for selected government institutions to better facilitate business



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed answering questions from the audience at a dialogue on "Bangladesh Economic Strategies and Priorities" at a city hotel yesterday. Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, right, and Army chief Moeen U Ahmed, left, are also seen.

Fakhruddin spells out steps to boost business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday laid out a series of economic and legal measures, likely to be implemented by the end of this month, to cut back on national spending and invigorate the economy.

Fakhruddin shared his vision of an enlivened economy with business leaders at a dialogue titled "Bangladesh Economic Strategies and Priorities" held at Radisson

Water Garden Hotel in the capital. Fakhruddin's propositions included forming high-level committees to initiate regulatory reforms, an official forum where the government would regularly communicate with the business community and a quarterly survey mechanism to gauge the business situation in the country.

Fakhruddin said he would finalise a policy on the demolition of illegal structures and put an end

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Corruption suspects won't be over 220

Says Moeen in bid to play down business fear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The list of corrupt people prepared by National Coordination Committee (NCC) on corruption and serious crimes now contains 142 names and it will not exceed 220 when it is finalised at the end of this month.

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Army Chief Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said this in a tone of assurance to the business community who earlier expressed concerns about smooth running of businesses due to some measures taken by the government.

Political reforms must be

Delwar warns dissidents of expulsion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Followers of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will wind up facing similar consequences for their activities against the party, newly appointed secretary general of BNP, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, said yesterday.

"If the senior leaders of the party stick to the expelled leaders, the vacuum in the party would soon be filled up," he told the reporters at a press briefing at his NAM apartment when he was asked to comment about the senior BNP leaders

who have been collaborating with the expelled secretary general.

When asked about the meeting of party leaders called by Bhuiyan, the BNP secretary general said any person can join the meeting, but of course at his/her own risk'.

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BNP updates EC on change in party line-up
Asks it not to contact with Bhuiyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday submitted a letter formally informing the Election Commission (EC) about the latest change in the party line-up, and requested the EC to contact with the party's new secretary general for any official purpose.

With the authority vested upon the BNP chairperson by the party

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TK 3CR EXTORTION CASE
Court order on charge sheet against Hasina, Rehana deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday re-fixed September 19 for delivering order whether the charge sheet of a Tk 2.99 crore extortion case against Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and their cousin Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim will be accepted.

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Notice
Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page supplement on the roundtable on "Draft Bangladesh Police Ordinance 2007" organised by The Daily Star on Aug 11, 2007.

We're mainstream BNP, real followers of Zia

Claims Bhuiyan at rebel leaders' meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Followers of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will wind up facing similar consequences for their activities against the party, newly appointed secretary general of BNP, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, said yesterday.

"If the senior leaders of the party

workers to save the party from dynasty politics.

Blaming the detained party chairperson for initiating division in the party through the recent expulsion order, many district leaders and former lawmakers of BNP expressed firm determination to lead the party under Bhuiyan's leadership.

Strongly criticising Khaleda for expelling Bhuiyan, they said she should take the responsibility of breaking up the party as she has initiated the division through her expulsion order.

The leaders were addressing the meeting of the members of the party's National Executive Committee called by Bhuiyan.

Around 100 former lawmakers and district level leaders out of the 251 National Executive Committee members, including Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, attended the meeting.

Bhuiyan is also planning to talk with those who could not attend the meeting due to time constraint but expressed their solidarity with him. Many BNP supporters were also present in the meeting.

The meeting was arranged at the parking space of Bhuiyan's NAM building residence. The venue displayed a banner containing only the photograph of founder

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SYRS IN OFFICE
Iajuddin thanks people

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed, who completed his five-year tenure yesterday, has urged all to play their due role in making the country's independence meaningful.

Democracy plays an important role in building a prosperous country and a lawful society. Democratic institutions should be strengthened

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Advertorial

Sony Ericsson
P1i Launched in Bangladesh

Sony Ericsson, a leading cellphone manufacturer across the globe, has recently unveiled its 5th generation smartphone - the 'P1i'. It is Sony Ericsson's latest addition to the P-series range. The phone is packed with features yet pocket sized, and offers the complete mobile office, and a true multimedia experience.

The P1i is smaller but more powerful than its predecessor the P990i. In addition to its sleek and compact design, its features include a wide range of push e-mail solutions, including Exchange ActiveSync™ and BlackBerry Connect, and cutting edge web browsing applications. The dual function keyboard's full alpha numeric (e.g. QWERTY) text input combined with one hand phone usability enables highly efficient usage.

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STRANDED PAKISTANIS
Govt moves to enroll them as voters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 1.6 lakh living in 116 camps are known as stranded Pakistanis who are willing to go back to Pakistan.

The Urdu-speaking people, who were born here after the independence will be registered in the voter roll. Besides, those who were born in the age group of 10 and 18 during the Liberation War and showed loyalty to the country will also be included, a home ministry sources said.

The proposal will be implemented after final approval of the law ministry, meeting sources said.

Mohammad Mohsin, additional secretary of the home ministry, presided over the meeting at the ministry in presence of representatives and senior officials of the law ministry, Election Commission and other ministries.

About three lakh Urdu-speaking people live in the country. Of them,

TAX EVASION CASES

Son of Shajahan Siraj jailed for 32 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court dealing with graft charges yesterday sentenced Rajib Siraj, son of former jute minister Shajahan Siraj, to 32 years' imprisonment in four tax evasion cases.

The court also fined him Tk 24 lakh, in default of which he would have to serve four years more in jail.

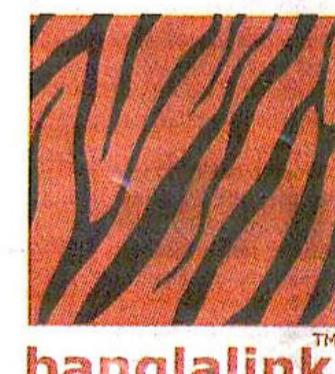
Rajib, however, will have to

serve only eight years' jail term, as sentences of all the cases would run concurrently.

He is absconding and was tried in absentia.

Rajib was convicted to eight years' jail in each of the four cases under the sections of 165 and 166 of Income Tax Ordinance, 1984 for providing false information and

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making a difference

“হেরে যাব বলে তো
স্বপ্ন দেখিনি”

কিছু মানুষ বিশ্বাস করতো দিন বদলে, ঠিক যেমন বিশ্বাস করে বাংলালিংক।

চোখ রাখুন তিতি পর্দায়