

United States averts govt shutdown

AFP, Washington



A last-gasp deal slashing spending prevented a US government shutdown set for Saturday, ending -- at least for now -- a rancorous budget row between President Barack Obama and his newly empowered Republican foes.

Party leaders clinched the agreement, including some \$38.5 billion of extra spending cuts, after intense bargaining, barely an hour before the federal government effectively ran out of money at midnight Friday.

The showdown was just the first bruising engagement in a string of likely clashes between Obama's Democrats and the Republicans, boosted by a new crop of conservative Tea Party movement lawmakers, as the president fires up his 2012 re-election bid.

Obama boasted that cooperation born of

difficult compromises had yielded "the biggest annual spending cut in history" at a time when Washington faced a projected annual shortfall of \$1.65 trillion.

"Some of the cuts we agreed to will be painful. Programs people rely on will be cut back. Needed infrastructure projects will be delayed," the president said.

House Speaker John Boehner told his restive

Republican caucus behind closed doors he had sealed an agreement with the White House to fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year ending September 30.

Lawmakers in both chambers raced to approve a stopgap funding measure before midnight to give negotiators until Thursday to finalize the overall deal.

The Senate passed it by voice vote, the House by a 348-70 margin at 12:39am local time Saturday.

Obama boasted that cooperation born of

13 sued for disgracing

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(confession of guilt) at a local mosque and forbade them to follow Lalon.

The incident happened on April 5.

The accused are Yunus Quari of Para Belgachi, Karim Bazari, Jinder Sheikh, Joynal Sheikh, Abdul Malek Matubber, Riaz Shikder, Insan Faraji, Nazrul Kari, Mukter Sheikh, Fela who is also known as Feli Quari, Mosharraf Molla, Nuru Kha and Shahidul Kha.

"All those are ignorant of Islam. We've made them Muslim through the rite of tawba. We've taken their undertakings," said Feli Quari, justifying their act.

Munshi Mofazzel Hossain, officer-in-charge of Pangsha Police Station, termed the incident hei-

nous.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Lalon devotees of Pangsha and other areas demonstrated at Pangsha tempo stand demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits yesterday.

Protesting the incident, cultural activists of Rajbari formed a human chain in front of Rajbari Press Club around 10:00am and handed a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Syeda Sahana Bari.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mohammad Fakir said Musa Molla, a local arbitrator, and Feli Quari, an Imam of a mosque, were threatening him and his family members terming them Hindu for the last few months.

According to the case statement, at least 50 people

led by Yunus Quari of Habashpur entered Mohammad Fakir's house when the devotees were performing Lalon songs. The attackers vandalised the microphone and other musical instruments, and ordered the devotees to stop the programme.

Later, they took the 28 devotees to a nearby mosque.

Following an arbitration on the same day, the imam announced their decision to cut off the hair and moustaches of the devotees in a mass gathering, said Mohammad Fakir as he showed his lost hair and moustaches.

Police initially recorded a general diary which was transformed into a case yesterday.

Amini versions skewed

FROM PAGE 1

interpretation of the policy may not be political gains," said Al-Maruf.

Amini, in his booklet, termed anti-Islamic the policy's section-23.5 that talks about women's equal opportunity and participation in employment, wealth, market and business.

So is section 25.2, which seeks to give women full control over the wealth they accumulate through earning, inheritance, loans and market management, according to Amini.

The scholars, however, disagree with Amini.

"Any literate person will understand that the word 'wealth' in section-23.5 does not mean inherited wealth. Similarly, the word 'inherit' in section 25.2 does not imply equal share of property to women," said Maulana Mohammad Ziaul Hasan.

Besides, the women development policy is not a law, rather a guideline upholding the constitution and the existing law, said the scholars.

Al-Maruf said Amini deliberately twisted the meanings of words in the Quran. For instance, according to the authentic book of tafsir [interpretation of the Holy Quran] the Arabic word "qauwamun" actually means "guardian", who is to perform managerial job for the family. Thus a husband is usually in-charge of sustenance of his family. But Amini used the word as administrator, ruler and controller.

In his booklet, Amini said the husband is the ruler or controller of other family members, including his wife.

Al-Maruf referred to surah Ali Imran, verse 195 from the holy Quran that says: "Never will I allow to be lost the work of [any] worker among you, whether male or female; you are of one another."

The verse gives no scope for discriminating women. The Quran contains so many verses, which indicate that responsibilities and liabilities are reciprocal and obligatory to every individual, male or

female, he said.

Amini also misinterpreted the meaning of the phrase "eliminate discrimination between men and women" in the women policy.

"Here the phrase does not refer to inherited wealth. It rather means elimination of discriminations in wages and opportunities, and ensuring rights of women," said Misbahur Rahman, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote.

On Amini's claim that Allah has created women weak and relieved them of the responsibilities of all their family members including themselves, Islamic scholars said Amini made the remark either out of ignorance or to hide Islam's true essence.

Ruling out the claim, Al-Maruf mentioned verse 28 of surah An-Nisa that says, "[Allah] have created human weak."

"Surah An-Nisa, verse 32 says, 'For men is a share of what they have earned, and for women is a share of what they have earned,'" he said, explaining that the Creator has given equal rights to both men and women in earnings and expenses, which Amini and his associates missed out.

Amini has censured the women policy for suggesting inclusion of a child's mother's name along with father's name in any documentation and said, "This would encourage free sex and illegal child birth."

In reply, Al-Maruf said on the Judgement Day, Allah will call every human being after their mother's name. So what Amini fears is absolutely baseless.

Maulana Ziaul Hasan alleged that Amini has been protesting the policy to serve the purposes of a fundamentalist country.

Misbahur said Amini and his supporters are misinterpreting the Quran because they do not have proper knowledge of the holy book.

He said during the time of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM), women made bags and

men sold them in market.

Hazrat Khadija was one of the biggest businesspersons in her time. She had 11,000 men including the Prophet working for her. She gave them capital and the men gave her a share of their profit in return.

Moreover, Hazrat Ayesha led the "battle of camel" where one lakh followers fought under her leadership,

Prof Rais Uddin said

said Misbahur Rahman.

He said Amini's claim that women don't have any responsibility in the family or economy is wrong.

Prof Abdul Mabud said Islam has given women the rights of economic activities.

He called upon the government to sit with Islamic scholars to end confusion over the policy.

Prof Rais Uddin said

except for the right to inherit property, Islam has given more rights and honour to women than men.

Asked about Amini's claim that Islam has portrayed women as weak subordinates, Rais Uddin said in the Quran Allah has said, "Wife is like an ornament for husband. Likewise, husband is an ornament for wife."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) Project
(IDA Credit # 4169-BD & 4693-BD)
Bangladesh Bank
Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000

Ref: IPFF/12(Proc.plan/S20)/2011-19

Date: 06/04/2011

Request for Expression of Interest (Firm)

for

Engagement of Technical Services Advisor

[Contract package name # Firm for Technical Advisory Services to Support IPFF Project; Package number # S20]

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project by a consulting firm.

IPFF now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in facilitating technical support to IPFF Project, Bangladesh Bank as technical support advisor in order to carry out project activities efficiently.

Different types of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based infrastructure sectors will be financed under the IPFF project:

- (a) Power generation, transmission, distribution and services;
- (b) port development (sea, river and land) including inland container terminals, inland container depot and other services;
- (c) environmental, industrial and solid waste management projects;
- (d) highways and expressways including mass-transit, bridges, tunnels, flyovers, interchanges, city roads, bus terminals, commercial car parking, etc;
- (e) airports, terminals and related aviation facilities;
- (f) water supply and distribution, sewerage and drainage;
- (g) industrial estates and parks development.

The IPFF requires technical advisory services from a consulting firm capable of (i) conducting feasibility and technical studies on behalf of sponsors to assist in the development of prospective projects to be financed under IPFF; (ii) keeping continuous liaison with government agencies and line ministries for project development and enlarging project pipelines; (iii) assisting IPFF Project in the eligibility review of infrastructure investment projects submitted for financing; (iv) coordinate and oversee the provision of social and environment impact assessment services for private infrastructure projects on behalf of client to assure the required quality, reduce risk and adherence to national and World Bank requirements; (v) assessing the training needs and arranging overseas and local training/workshop under the Project; (vi) assisting IPFF Project for procurement of services; and (vii) assisting in promotional activities for IPFF fund marketing.

The firm should have at least 5 years experience in the relevant type of services. They should have sufficient personnel having expertise and experience of providing technical services for infrastructure development projects. The firm will engage a team leader, key professionals (Project development specialist, financial specialist, training expert, environmental specialist, procurement specialist) and other staff to perform the services.

The Consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOI, or annul the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s).

The firm will be selected using the quality and cost based selection (QCBS) method of the World Bank's Consultant Guidelines, January, 2011. It is expected that the services will be commenced on September, 2011 and shall be completed on June, 2014.

Interested Consultants may obtain detailed TOR and further information from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours or from Bangladesh Bank website at www.bangladeshbank.org.bd.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted on or before 04/05/2011 during office hours (10.00am to 5.00pm), in sealed envelope delivered to Mr Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, Executive Director and Project Director, Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) Project, 24th Floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000, and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest", contract package number, name of the post applied for and name and address of the firm.

Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury

Executive Director and Project Director

Investment Promotion and Financing Facility (IPFF) Project

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Two killed in Philippines plane crash

AFP, Baguio

A small chartered plane crashed into a northern Philippine mountain park and burst into flames yesterday, killing two people on board, police said.

Four other people on board were injured and taken to hospital after the aircraft slammed into a forest track at the Camp John Hay resort that is used for pony rides, regional police commander Superintendent Leon Talleo told reporters.

He said the plane had just taken off from the nearby Baguio airport. The aircraft model involved was not immediately known.

Witnesses said tourists were the first to the scene.

Baguio city fire department sent firetrucks to put out the blaze, fire officer Jay Guiniaoan told AFP.

WIKILEAKS

Israel ruled out Iran strike in 2005

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli defence officials ruled out a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities as early as 2005, US diplomatic cables leaked to whistleblower site WikiLeaks show, an Israeli newspaper said yesterday.

The documents given to the Haaretz newspaper by WikiLeaks detail conversations between US diplomats and Israeli defence officials, which suggested the Jewish state did not plan to target Iran's nuclear programme.

One December 2005 cable said Israeli officials had indicated there was "no chance of a military attack being carried out on Iran," Haaretz reported.

Another telegram a month later, detailing talks between a US congressman and the then deputy chief of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, offered a stronger suggestion that Israel considered a strike on Iran's facilities unfeasible.

Deputy chief Ariel Levite "said that most Israeli officials do not believe a military solution is possible," Haaretz quoted the telegram as saying.

"They believe Iran has learned from Israel's attack on Iraq's Osirak reactor (in 1981) and has dispersed the components of its nuclear programme throughout Iran, with some elements in places that Israel does not know about."

Israel, which has the Middle East's sole if undeclared nuclear arsenal, regards Iran as its number one enemy after repeated predictions by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that the Jewish state is doomed to collapse.

Along with much of the international community, Israel accuses Iran of using its nuclear energy programme to mask a weapons drive. Iran denies the charge, saying the programme is purely for civilian energy and medical purposes.

Unemployed Saudis protest to demand jobs

REUTERS, Jeddah

Dozens of unemployed university graduates and teachers staged rare protests in two Saudi cities yesterday to demand jobs and better wages in the biggest Arab economy, which is struggling to reduce joblessness.

Saudi Arabia, the world's No. 1 oil exporter and a US ally, is an absolute monarchy that does not tolerate public dissent.

Over 20 protesters gathered outside the education ministry office in Jeddah while around 20 collected outside the ministry in the capital Riyadh, witnesses and participants said.

Despite its oil wealth, Saudi Arabia is struggling to reduce unemployment which reached 10 percent in 2010.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229

Invitation for International Tender

01	Ministry/Division	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.	
02	Agency	N/A.	
03	Procuring entity name	CEMSU, CAAB.	
04	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
05	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
06	Invitation for	Supply & Installation of Heavy Luggage & Hand Baggage Scanning Machine for different Airports of CAAB.	
07	Invitation Ref. No. & date	CAAB/Com(40-147)/1/Part-9(