

Journos for action

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community demanded formation of a special tribunal for trying the killers of journalists, and repeal the rules and regulations hampering freedom of the media.

Addressing a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, journalists' leaders demanded immediate arrest of the killer(s) of Sagar-Runi on the basis of information from Mahfuzur Rahman.

The ATN Bangla chief said in London recently, "Sagar and Runi were victims of an extra-marital affair. He also claimed that he had video footage relating to their killing."

Speakers at the protest rally, termed Mahfuzur Rahman's comments dis-

tasteful. Za E Mamun, head of news at ATN Bangla, said immediate arrest of the killer(s) could stop making of such confusing statements.

Sagar Sarwar, news editor of private TV station Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were murdered at their rented flat in the capital's West Rajabazar on February 11.

The rally was addressed by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists presidents Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin Gazi, Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, acting secretary general M Abdullah, Dhaka Union of Journalists presidents Abdus Shahid and Omar Faruque,

general secretaries Muhammad Baker Hossain and Shaban Mahmud, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin, General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmad and Dhaka Reporters Unity President Shakhawat Hossain and General Secretary Sazzad Alam Khan spoke at the rally.

The leaders of journalists complained to the Speaker that the authorities failed to ensure completion of trial of any journalist murder cases, including that of Humayun Kabir Balu and Manik Saha of Khulna, Shamsur Rahman of Jessore.

In response, the Speaker said, "I cannot discuss the matter on my own. But I can tell the government to take prompt actions if any lawmaker raises the issue."

Expressway faces fresh hurdle

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resulting in further delay in the construction. As per the original plan, the construction was scheduled to start in July last year with 42 months time to complete it.

Apart from the cut in length, two of the expressway ramps -- one in Tejgaon and the other in Shantibagh -- have been removed from the plan due to land-acquisition difficulties. A ramp in a narrow road used to get in and get down from the expressway.

"Integrating the expressway with Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover will be a daunting task. The government has to negotiate with the investors of both projects to reach a solution," Prof Shamsul Hoque, member of the expressway experts' team, told The Daily Star.

He said the fate of the expressway depends on how quickly the government sits with the two investors and reaches an amicable solution.

The new decision, however, is likely to minimise land acquisition-related difficulties. The government could not complete land acquisition for the project as hundreds of houses in the deleted four-kilometre part in Jatrabari needed to be demolished and people needed to be compensated with huge money, Prof Hoque added.

He said the investor will come up with a revised proposal since the cut will reduce the number of traffic using the expressway and thus the investor's revenue.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) signed a Tk 8,703-crore deal with Ital-Thai Development Public Company on January 20 last year to build the elevated expressway from the Shahjalal International Airport to Kutubkhali under public-private partnership.

According to the agreement, both parties were required to finish a set of vital preparatory work to start the construction within six months. But BBA failed to complete acquisition of land, while the inves-

tor failed to manage budget that delayed the construction.

Montchai Munsicadud, managing director of Ital-Thai, said his company accepted the prime minister's proposal to cut the expressway length, but said they would go ahead with the project if it is viable for them.

With the changed context, he said Ital-Thai will carry out fresh financial, technical and traffic study before giving opinions to the government.

"We will start our study once we get formal letter regarding slashing of alignment," he told The Daily Star, claiming that they have managed funds for the expressway project.

He said his company is interested to implement the project, but it has to be feasible for them. He urged the government to resolve all the problems regarding alignment and land acquisition so that construction can be started soon.

Prof Hoque said the premier ordered the BBA and the contractor of Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover to sit and reach an understanding about integrating the expressway with it.

Meanwhile, President of Ital-Thai Premchai Karnsuta flew in Dhaka yesterday to discuss the latest development of the elevated expressway with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader.

"We had a fruitful meeting. Ital-Thai has assured me of resuming construction of the expressway in next three months," Quader told The Daily Star.

THE EXPRESSWAY
As per the original design, the main expressway route starts from the Shahjalal International Airport and runs along the rail alignment through Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Moghbazar and Kamalapur Railway Station. It then touches Golapbagh, south of Kamalapur stadium, and east of Jatrabari before connecting Dhaka-Chittagong Highway near Kutubkhali.

Its total length was 42 kilometres with two elevated links of five kilometres and seven interchanges and 35 ramps of 16 kilometres. Vehicles from different directions will have the options to travel from one place to another.

The first elevated link will connect Manik Mia Avenue-Holy Cross College-Tejgaon Crossing, while the second one will touch Palashi-Kataban-Hatirpool-Hotel Sonargaon (rear)-Moghbazar level crossing. The interchange points are Kuril, Cantonment, Banani,

Farmgate, Shaheed Tajuddin Road, Moghbazar and Kamalapur.

There will be 11 toll plazas and toll for end-to-end journey on the expressway will be Tk 125 for cars, jeeps and other light vehicles. The rate will be double for buses, four times for six-wheel trucks, and five times for above six-wheel trucks.

The guaranteed traffic on the expressway is 13,500 vehicles per day, while the traffic transaction ceiling is 80,000 vehicles per day. The revenue sharing will be 25

percent for the government and 75 percent for concessionaire (for exceeding traffic transaction ceiling).

The deadline to kick off construction has been shifted twice since signing of the deal. It was shifted to March this year as the government failed to resolve land-acquisition problems and the contractors failed to manage funds.

Amid this situation, Ital-Thai in July last year suspended its primary activities like piling and soil tests it has been doing since signing of the deal.

Expunge diatribes

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speaker] might have some answering to do for that. The elected representatives on whom we pin our hopes are gradually letting us down."

The TIB organised the press conference to explain its stance following Sunday's parliament discussions about Prof Sayeed and the TIB. Video footage of Prof Sayeed's speech at Saturday's TIB programme was also screened at the conference.

A section of ruling alliance lawmakers in the House said Prof Sayeed had termed lawmakers and ministers thieves and dacoits at a TIB programme on June 2, and demanded that he offer an unconditional apology in the House for his comment.

Prof Sayeed, founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, said at the conference yesterday that he had not mentioned the name of any country, or lawmaker or parliament on Saturday's programme.

"We have aged, gained some knowledge and learnt to respect people. I am not

that crazy to make a sweeping comment about lawmakers that they are all bad and corrupt."

He read out reports published in two newspapers and said, "What I had said at the TIB programme and what they published are completely different."

"Anyone can get angry after reading these news reports. I do not blame the parliamentarians completely. But what I want to say is democracy is the rule of the greatest sons of a country and the parliamentarians are the greatest sons of a nation."

"So, they [the lawmakers] have a greater responsibility. They should talk and behave with dignity."

He said what had hurt him the most was that the lawmakers had slammed him without trying to know the facts. "Nobody asked or inquired about it, yet everyone passed comments."

Prof Sayeed said he was very hurt by ruling party lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim's comment that a teacher was not supposed

to own houses or cars. "I live an ordinary life. I neither have a house nor a car. I live in a two-room rented house."

Prof Sayeed said Selim had once told him that he had been Prof Sayeed's student and "it hurts when such comments come from a student."

He was also upset about the way the lawmakers criticised him. "The people who blasted me are half my age. Even the rudest remark can be made in a decent way."

"We want the parliamentarians to smile all the time, speak in a decent language and keep a congenial atmosphere in the country. It is the demand of the general people."

Prof Sayeed said none had apologised to him and he would not take legal action against any newspaper.

Sultana Kamal said the persons who had blasted Prof Sayeed should offer an apology.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman read out a written statement at the

Inflation: the Achilles' heel

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government's heavy borrowing from the banking system and a deficiency in utilising external assistances caused the rise in inflation.

He said it is unlikely that inflation will come down much in the next fiscal year.

However, if the prices of fuel and food grains mark a fall on the global market, it may have a positive impact on inflation, he added.

In the current fiscal year's budget, the allocation for subsidy was about Tk 20,000 crore, but the finance ministry now estimates that Tk 40,000 crore may be

required for subsidy.

As a result, the amount of the government's borrowing from banks will be raised to more than Tk 29,000 crore in the revised budget from around Tk 19,000 crore in the original one.

In the next fiscal year, the target of such bank borrowing may be set at around Tk 21,000 crore.

But a finance ministry official said, if the ministries fail to properly utilise foreign aid and the pressure on subsidy cannot be reined in, the amount of borrowing will shoot up further.

Private think tank Centre

for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in a recent report on the country's macroeconomic performance in fiscal 2012 said lax macroeconomic management has been greatly responsible for many of the recent economic woes.

On the outlook for the next fiscal year, the CPD report said, "From all indications, it seems that inflationary pressure will sustain in the upcoming year."

Releasing the report on Monday, CPD Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya said, through the central bank's tight monetary

policy the private sector credit could be cut down, but the government's borrowing from banks would not be contained.

However, in line with the prescription of the International Monetary Fund, the prices of fuel will have to be raised in future, and the move will fuel inflation further.

On the government's target of containing inflation within 7.5 percent, Vice Chairman of Policy Research Institute Sadiq Ahmed said, "It depends on so many factors. But if the Bangladesh Bank is able to

limit the growth of money supply to 16-17 percent for the next 12 months, inflation may come down to around 7-8 percent."

Ahmed said, in the recent times China, India and Vietnam also faced high inflationary pressures.

He said all these countries recognised that, besides high food and energy prices, inflation was caused by high domestic demand and they took appropriate actions to slow down the growth of domestic liquidity and credit.

He said Bangladesh was late in recognising this, but fortunately things are looking good now.

The central bank has taken steps to put brakes on the growth of domestic liquidity.

Ahmed said, this policy needs to be implemented properly with supportive fiscal policy that limits public sector borrowing from the central bank in order to avoid a crowding out of the private sector.

World Bank's senior economist Zahid Hussain said the outlook for the next year hinges on trends in global commodity prices and the continuation of fiscal and monetary restraints domestically.

Citing the forecast in the IMF's World Economic Outlook, Hussain said the prices of both fuel and non-food commodities may fall on the international market.

"This bodes well for inflation in Bangladesh provided non-food inflation is reduced from the current double digit level to low single digit through prudent monetary and fiscal policies," he said.

Hassan Zaman, senior economic adviser to the BB governor, said, "We are seeing some signs of inflation coming down; we will maintain this monetary stance until such time that we see a consistent pattern of single digit inflation over several months."

Rental critics anti-state

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The government had no alternative but to go for rental power plants for fixing the power crisis quickly, but it (government) now faces the challenge of using the plants efficiently due to the abnormal price hike of oil on the international market, he mentioned.

When the agreements for the plants were signed, the price of furnace oil was Tk 26 per litre, but now it costs Tk 60 per litre, pointed out the adviser.

Tawfiq claimed that the government, since taking office, had significantly increased the country's power generation capacity.

The daily average power production now hovers around 5,500 megawatts

and more plants are being set up, he maintained. He was optimistic that public sufferings over power would ease in future.

The critics have just made theoretical remarks to undermine the government's achievement, he complained. "You (critics) should rather thank the government for increasing power production."

He further asserted that the production of natural gas had increased during the tenure of the present government.

"We have raised the production of gas to around 2,100 million cubic feet per day, which was around 1,700 mcmfd when the government took office," noted the

energy adviser. The government is piloting a smart meter before introducing it in the country to ensure efficient use of power, he added.

Addressing the workshop, Muhammad Enamul Huq, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said demand for electricity had increased by 14 percent this year and the present demand was 7,000 MW per day.

He stressed the need for efficient use of electrical appliances to save electricity.

Energy and Power, a fortnightly magazine on the power sector, organised the workshop on the theme, "Sustainable Development and Smart Grid."

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, New Bhaban (4th Floor) 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000.
Web : www.pgcb.org.bd
Date: June 4, 2012

NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION

For Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Power Transformers with Associated Switchgears on Turnkey Basis Under Renovation, Rehabilitation & Augmentation of Grid Substations Project [Contract No. PGCB/RRAGS/2012/Lot-1&Lot-2]

Ref: Memo No.:(1) 01/PGCB/Sec(Design)/2012/1087 dated: February 23, 2012.
(2) No. 01/PGCB/Sec (Design)/2012/2344 dated: April 26, 2012

The closing date for submission of Bids for the above works is hereby extended from June 6, 2012 at 11:00 am BST to June 27, 2012 at 11:00am BST.

All other terms and conditions for the above Bidding Document shall remain unaltered.

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Ref: BCB - Commercial/2012/189 Date: June 3, 2012

Tender Notice: Re-development of Play Ground, Storm Water discharge & irrigation of playing field at Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) Playing field 3 & 4 for conversion into an internationally standard cricket grounds with modern drainage system at BKSP, Savar, Dhaka

Time Extension

Following amendments are made in the advertisement published in the National Dailies on 22nd May 2012 (Ref: BCB/Admin/T&PC/BKSP174 Dated 20th May 2012):

8. The last date of and time for selling tender documents on 16th June 2012 by 5:00PM.

9. The offer must be submitted in the "Tender Box" at the BCB Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216, Bangladesh no later than BST 12:00 Hrs on 17th June 2012 and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to "The Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board"

10. Sealed offers will be opened in presence of the authorized representatives of the participating parties (if present) on the same day e.g. 17th June 2012 at BST 12:30 pm at the BCB Management Office, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Dhaka.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board
Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2
Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh
E-mail: <info@bcb-cricket.com>, <ceo@bcb-cricket.com>
Tel: 880 2 8031001-4. Fax: 803 1199

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thus saving from wasting of paper, printing consumables and efforts.

Companies having successful implementation experience of this technology are requested to send their proposal to info@viyellatexgroup.com or to company address by June 21, 2012

Details Scope of Work and related Terms & Conditions of Proposal are available at: www.viyellatexgroup.com → Publications → Tender Documents.

VIYELLATEX preserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals at it's discretions.

Information and Strategic Support
VIYELLATEX group
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