

CHANGES IN BUDGET Nepal's finance minister quits Denies any wrongdoing; parliamentary Speaker orders probe

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's Finance Minister Janardan Sharma resigned yesterday after the parliamentary Speaker ordered an investigation into allegations of unauthorised changes in the budget.



Opposition parties and some lawmakers of the ruling centre-left alliance have accused Sharma of inviting "unauthorised persons" to make changes in the rate of some taxes in the federal budget just a day before he presented the spending plan for the fiscal year 2022-23. He has denied any wrongdoing.

The "unauthorised persons" refers to people outside the government with no legal power to make amendments to the budget.

"I am resigning to help the investigation," said Sharma while addressing lawmakers, adding that he was ready to face the investigation as he had not done anything wrong.

"I am ready to face not one but thousands of investigations."

Pressure on Sharma has also mounted after the finance ministry said CCTV footage from the day when the alleged changes in the budget were made was not available.

Parliamentary Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota gave the multi-party 11-member investigating panel 10 days to examine the opposition's accusations.

Sharma, a former Maoist rebel leader, was involved in removing central bank governor Maha Prasad Adhikari in April, accusing him of leaking sensitive financial information to the media. Adhikari was later reinstated by the Supreme Court.

Nepal, a landlocked country between China and India, has been facing an inflationary surge following a rise in the prices of crude oil and other commodity imports while also dealing with a fall in its foreign exchange reserves.



Police use water canon to disperse farmers taking part in an anti-government protest demanding the resignation of Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the country's ongoing economic crisis in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka has asked Russia to provide fuel and resume tourist flights to help the country weather its economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said.

PHOTO: AFP

My job is to 'keep going'

UK PM pledges to fight on despite calls to quit amid string of ministerial resignations

REUTERS, London

Britain's Boris Johnson yesterday vowed to fight on against a chorus of calls for him to resign as prime minister, but his defiant pledge to keep going was met with derision and disregard from a growing number of his own lawmakers.

Badly wounded by the resignations of a stream of senior colleagues and junior ministers who said he was not fit to govern, Johnson sought to come out fighting at parliament's weekly prime minister's questions session.

With the tide of resignations rising to more than 20, some questioned whether Johnson could fill vacancies at a time when there are calls for the government to

tackle a cost-of-living crisis and support an economy heading for a sharp slowdown, possibly a recession.

His immediate fate could be decided at a meeting of the so-called 1922 Committee that sets the rules for leadership confidence votes. A spokesperson said Johnson was confident he would win a confidence motion.

"The job of a prime minister in difficult circumstances is to keep going," Johnson said. "And that's what I'm going to do."

Earlier, he tried to reassert his authority by quickly appointing



Nadhim Zahawi, a rising star in the Conservative Party widely credited for the successful rollout of Covid-19 vaccines, as finance minister.

But Johnson's performance in parliament encountered a brutal response.

Standing in the backbenches, his former health minister, Sajid Javid, detailed the scandals, missteps and gaffes that have marked Johnson's tenure so far. The prime minister was later due to appear before the chairs of select committees for a scheduled two-hour grilling.

WEST BANK ARREST RAID Israeli forces kill Palestinian man

REUTERS, Ramallah

Israeli forces shot dead a wanted Palestinian suspect and arrested two dozen in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the military said, as tensions simmered ahead of US President Joe Biden's visit to the region next week. Palestinian officials identified the man killed as Rafiq Ghannam, 20, shot by soldiers in the town Jaba near Jenin, where Israeli forces have stepped up raids in recent months after men from the area carried out deadly street attacks in Israel. "I heard Israeli forces shouting at a man, asking him to stop before I heard eight shots fired," said a Palestinian Jaba resident, who asked not to be identified. The Israeli military said its forces were conducting counter-terrorism operations across the West Bank. The man killed had tried to escape the soldiers when they opened fire, the military said, adding that the soldiers provided first aid to him before he died. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said that Israel was "preceding President Biden's visit by more field executions and escalation of aggression against the Palestinian people".



BLOCKING CONTENT ON SITE Twitter challenges Indian orders

AFP, New Delhi

Twitter is challenging the Indian government's orders to block content on its social media site in court, local media reported yesterday citing legal documents. The suit is the latest showdown between Twitter and Indian authorities, which have been accused of muzzling criticism both on and offline. In the case filed with a court in Bangalore, the social media giant alleged that the basis on which multiple accounts and content flagged by the government was either "overbroad and arbitrary" and "disproportionate", the Indian Express daily reported. The social media giant submitted to the Karnataka state High Court that the ministry had failed to prove how some of the content it wanted taken down violated IT rules, the newspaper quoted sources as saying. Last week Twitter confirmed that India had directed it to locally censor accounts and dozens of posts, including some talking about declining internet freedom in the world's biggest democracy.

Owners

FROM PAGE 12 said they have sent letters to six government departments concerned, including the Chittagong Port, Chittagong Customs, and the DoE, asking them to inform the probe body about their roles in maintaining compliance with related rules in last one year.

Mizanur said, "We have recommended updating some laws and rules of different departments, including Chattogram Port Authority."

He hoped that the risk of such a deadly blast would reduce if the committee's recommendations were implemented.

HUMAN REMAINS FOUND

More human remains, including a skull and bones, were found in the debris at BM Container Depot yesterday.

With this, the death toll from the incident increased by one and rose to 51, police said.

"A human skull and bones were found in the warehouse shed area around 10:15am when staffers of the depot were conducting cleaning," Ashraful Karim, additional superintendent (Sitakunda Circle) of Chattogram police, told The Daily Star.

Police later sent the remains to Chattogram Medical College morgue.

Eight officials of the container depot were sued by Sitakunda police for negligence, but no charges were brought against the owners.

EU backs green

FROM PAGE 12 transition and deepen our dependency on Russian fuels."

Critics of nuclear energy, meanwhile, point to the threat posed by accidents and nuclear waste and believe solar and wind energy is the best way forward.

But the EU executive, under pressure from nuclear-powered France and gas-reliant Germany, argues that both have a role to play as cleaner power sources during the transition to a net-zero carbon future.

Condemned killer held in India

FROM PAGE 12 official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Based on the information, Kolkata police arrested Faisal from Bommanahalli in Bengaluru on July 1. He was brought to Kolkata on July 3, said the ATU official, quoting Kolkata police.

Mohammad Aslam Khan, special superintendent (media and awareness) of ATU, said, "We have talked to Kolkata police about the arrest of Faisal, and steps will be taken to bring him back following the ministerial procedure."

Sources said Faisal was using a fake passport

under the name of one Shahid Majumdar with the address of Mizoram. He also obtained a driving licence from Bangalore, they said.

About bringing back Faisal, Mohiul Islam, assistant inspector general (NCB) of Police Headquarters, told this paper that they have already wrote to their India counterpart asking the latest status of Faisal.

"When we will get the response, we may be able to say further about the repatriation," said Mohiul.

On May 12, 2015, Ananta was hacked to death in Sylhet by a group of

assailants.

A murder case was filed with Jalalabad Police Station against four unidentified people.

After investigation, the involvement of militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team was found in the murder.

On October 18, 2016, Criminal Investigation Department Inspector Arman Ali, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet to a Sylhet court. But the court asked for re-investigation and then he again submitted a supplementary charge sheet on May 9, 2017.

Next polls will be crucial

FROM PAGE 1 considerably. Through the Digital Security Act and other forms of intimidation, the government has curtailed freedom of the press, the ability of labour to organise, the rule of law, and the right of people to engage in legitimate social discourse.

"We seek a greater commitment to democracy, human rights, and protection of Rohingya; flourishing people-to-people ties, improved business climate and labour conditions; increased ability to tackle the climate and pandemic crises; and a strengthened capacity to contribute to regional security."

Efforts to strengthen Bangladesh's "fragile democratic institutions" and bolster its secular, tolerant, and pluralistic traditions will be essential, it said, adding that reforms of the security services — particularly in the wake of US human rights sanctions on the Rab in December 2021 — are key to this objective, as are democratic reforms ahead of the 2023 national elections.

"We will continue to engage the government of Bangladesh to address the human rights issues, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and

restrictions on core civil liberties."

The US businesses increasingly see Bangladesh as a future market and investment opportunity, but the country must strengthen labour rights and workplace safety to reap the benefits.

It also suggested that Bangladesh addresses infrastructure deficiencies, pervasive corruption, regulatory issues and the lack of diversity in its economy.

As a traditionally moderate, secular, peaceful, and stable country, Bangladesh plays a key role in supporting international peace and security and is an important partner in the US' global effort to defeat terrorism.

The US also supports Bangladesh's battle against extremism, improving investigations, judicial system capacity to prosecute terrorism cases and preventing recruitment by violent extremist organisations.

It also will support Bangladesh's military through a growing range of training, exchanges, exercises, and military sales so that Bangladesh becomes more stable, has more capacity to provide for its own security, counter threats to US interests, and serve as a growing security

contributor in the Indo-Pacific and globally.

Deepening the US-Bangladesh defence relationship through bilateral defence agreements and increased sales of more advanced US military equipment to Bangladesh will expand US access and enhance interoperability with Bangladesh.

To support Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) goals, Bangladesh must protect its freedom-of-navigation, ensure equitable access to sea lanes, and promote maritime security to help advance regional stability, integration, and trade.

Failure to achieve this objective would compromise US relationships and influence in Bangladesh, hamper growth of bilateral trade, and, by extension, impede implementation of the IPS, the ICS said.

The US also wants Bangladesh to improve capacity and accountability of governing institutions, enhance public services and the human rights record to instill citizen confidence.

Bangladesh faces increased politicisation of the justice system; and the concentration of authority and resources at the national level.

instability due to the further decrease in citizen confidence in government institutions, as well as diminished respect for the rule of law stemming from adverse public reaction to government corruption, it said.

15-20 criminals

FROM PAGE 12 Police Station.

Police arrested six people, including two women, on Sunday night in connection with the murder. They were sent to jail by a court, he added.

Faysal was stabbed to death while he was returning home from an Awami League council.

Some AL leaders said criminals tried to attack Faysal at the council, but the attempt was foiled.

The leaders said they informed police about the possibility of an attack on Faysal.

A police team reached the council venue around 7:00pm and sent the BCL leader home by a CNG-run three wheeler.

The criminals ambushed Faysal, a resident of Kawarpara area in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, and stabbed him.

AL leaders and Faysal's family members alleged that law enforcers did not try to protect Faysal. They let the criminals commit the crime and flee.

Jitu admits to hitting teacher

FROM PAGE 12 he was standing at a corner of the playground during a cricket match.

Meanwhile, Jitu's father Mohammad Uzzal on Tuesday told another Dhaka magistrate that his son beat the teacher to death as he was aggrieved over "disciplinary actions against him".

Uzzal added that he

hid his son in one of his houses in Ashulia after police started searching for him. Later, he sent his son to Pabna and he went into hiding in Kushiá to avoid arrest.

Jitu, who beat up Utpal on June 25, was placed on a five-day remand on June 30 after his arrest from Gazipur's Sreepur.

On June 27, Utpal,

lecturer and also chairman of the disciplinary committee of Haji Yunus Ali School and College, died at Enam Medical College Hospital while undergoing treatment.

Later, Aseem Kumar Sarkar, the victim's brother, filed a murder case with Ashulia Police Station accusing Jitu and several unnamed people.

Pilgrims flock to Makkah

FROM PAGE 12 ignored so far this week. Many pilgrims held umbrellas to block the hot sun as the temperature climbed to 42 degrees Celsius (108 Fahrenheit).

The Saudi health ministry has prepared 23 hospitals and 147 health centres in Makkah and Madinah, the second-holiest city in Islam, to accommodate pilgrims, state media reported this week.

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23.02.1565.341.53.006.21.219 Date: 05 July 2022

Invitation for Re Tender

1. Procuring entity name	Chittagong Dry Dock Limited (CDDL)
2. Invitation Reference No.	23.02.1565.341.53.006.21.219 Date: 05 July 2022
3. Invitation for	Purchase of Power Cable 110 Meter for 50 Ton Portal Jib Crane & 90 Meter for 40 Ton Portal Jib Crane. Note: Detail Technical Specifications Mentioned on Schedule.
4. Procuring method	Open Tender.
5. Submission of tender documents	02 (two) envelopes submission to be followed. Financial documents in 01 (one) envelope and technical documents in another envelope. Both the envelopes to be sealed in covering envelope.
6. Source of funds	Own finance of Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd.
7. Tender last selling date (office time only)	04 August 2022 at 12.00pm.
8. Tender closing date and time	04 August 2022 at 12.15pm.
9. Tender opening date & time	04 August 2022 at 12.30pm.
10. Name and address of the office(s) for selling, receiving and opening of tender documents	Cash Section, Accounts Department, Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram.
a. Selling tender document	
b. Receiving tender document	Purchase & Commerce Department, Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd.
c. Opening tender document	(1) Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, East Patenga, Chattogram. (2) Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
11. Price of each tender document	1,000 (one thousand) Tk (non-refundable)
12. Contact details	Phone: +880 2333301117, Fax: +88 02333301123 Mobile: +8801769744452, E-mail: commerce@odd.gov.bd
13. Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

Head of Commerce Department

For Managing Director

GD-1355