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**Education gets highest allocation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education and Technology gets the highest allocation in the budget for the FY 2006-07 as Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday proposed Tk 11,093 crore in revenue and development budget for the sector.

It is 15.9 percent of the total budgetary allocation and 20 percent higher than the allocation made in the revised budget of the current fiscal year.

Placing the budget for FY 2006-07, the finance minister proposed an extra allocation of Tk 45 crore for the teachers of non-government registered primary schools in the country for enhancing the teachers' allowances.

"The registered primary schools have no source of income as they SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

**14 die as motorboat sinks in Sandwip**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 14 people including eight children and three women drowned as a motorised boat sank in Sandwip Channel at Baro Kumara in Sitakunda yesterday.

Witnesses said the motorboat, MB Imrul Kayesh of Mosharrarf of Sandwip, sank as it hit submerged land some 200 yards off Kumira Ghat around 12:30pm.

Survivors alleged the boat was overloaded with over 100 passengers when it left Gupatashar Ghat in the offshore island of Sandwip around 11:00am.

Over 20 passengers, mostly children and women, were trapped inside the hull and engine room as the boat capsized. The operator of the boat, Zahurul Haq, managed to escape.

Police with the help of locals recovered nine bodies and rescued eight people in their unconscious state. Five of the rescued died on way to hospital and the rest were undergoing treatment.

The dead include Rubel, 12, Robin, 7, and Rima, 10, sons and daughter of Abul Kashem, an education ministry employee from Azampur in Sandwip; Khaleda Begum, wife of Md Babul of Sharigait, Kazipara, her son Fahim, 12, and daughter Israt Jahan alias Prama, 10; Tamim, 7, and Tamim, 4, sons of Md Babul, an expatriate in Saudi Arabia from Bakhterhat in Sandwip; Surma Begum, wife of Kamal Uddin of Shiberhat, engine driver of the boat Abul Bashar, 60, Noor Jahan, 35, and her daughter NazmunNabar, 3.

The identities of the remaining two could not be known immediately.

Hundreds of people rushed to the Kumiraghat, some 25Km off the port city, to see if any of their near and dear ones was among the victims or survivors.

Passengers of the boat and locals alleged absence of the BIWTC-run water vessels forces around 2,000 people cross the channel in a very few number of privately operated engine boats SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

**Tax on undeclared money to buy flats, cars upped**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget has increased the tax on undeclared money used to buy apartments in posh areas, land and cars.

The tax rate has been increased to Tk 300 per square foot for a plinth area up to 200 square metre, which was Tk 200 in the last budget, and Tk 500 from Tk 300 for a plinth area over 200 square metre.

The proposed budget, as per section 19B of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984, also mentioned the localities to be considered as posh. These include Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Bashundhara, Dhanmondi, DOHS etc of Dhaka and Panchlaish and Khulshi of Chittagong.

The budget, however, kept "the prevailing tax rates unchanged for other areas".

On the other hand, the government also proposed to increase SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



**No duty cut on newsprint**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget does not have any announcement for reducing duty on newsprint import.

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) has been demanding for long for reducing duties on newsprint import to a reasonable level. The parliamentary standing committee on information ministry also seconded the Noab's demand recently.

On May 29, editors of different national dailies and press leaders identified the issue of duty on newsprint import, among others, as the key problem before the committee.

The duty on newsprint import in Bangladesh is 25 per cent while the duty in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and other countries in the region is not more than 5-6 per cent, they mentioned. SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**Tax ombudsman to start work from July**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wait for a tax ombudsman may end at last after one year of passing a law in this regard as Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the office will start functioning in July.

"The tax ombudsman and his office will start functioning from July 2006," he told the parliament while tabling the budget for FY2006-07.

Saifur said the process for appointing an ombudsman and establishing his office is in progress.

The Tax Ombudsman Act 2005 was enacted in parliament to ensure transparency and accountability in tax administration.

**Budget turns blind eye to power crisis**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget has hardly any provision for the improvement of power situation in the near future as it lacks 'vigorous initiative' to address the crisis amid growing demands of the business community and the people.

"An investment to the tune of about Tk 22,000 crore will be needed to build an appropriate power infrastructure," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said proposing to allocate Tk 3,586 crore to improve power generation, transmission, and distribution.

The minister said the allocation has been earmarked for 52 projects including two new projects in the ADP during financial year 2006-07.

Experts in the sector said majority of the allocation would go for transmission and distribution of power instead of construction of new power plants. He said the government has involved private sector for power generation.

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) President Mir Nasir Hossain giving his instant reaction said, "The allocation in SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

**Chief whip's son held for 'carjacking'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aktar Hamid Paban, son of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, was arrested on Wednesday night on charge of carjacking.

A Detective Branch (DB) of police team captured Paban on Bailey Road with a stolen Toyota Premio around 10:30pm on Wednesday.

Three criminals hijacked the vehicle at gunpoint from its driver Jahangir Alam in Motijheel on October 13 last year.

Owner of the car Kazi Mizanur Rahman told reporters his driver SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



Aktar Hamid Paban

**BDR rescues 21 from traffickers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rescued 21 people from traffickers and seized eight human skeletons at Barakuthi Balughat and Khanpur in Rajshahi.

Acting on a tip off, BDR men rescued them while they were boarding a boat on the Padma.

The forces also arrested trafficker Nazrul Islam. He confessed to taking Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,000 from each of the clients who were promised jobs in Mumbai, India. All the rescued hail from Narail. SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

**DEPZ units reopen after 4-day closure**

STAR REPORT

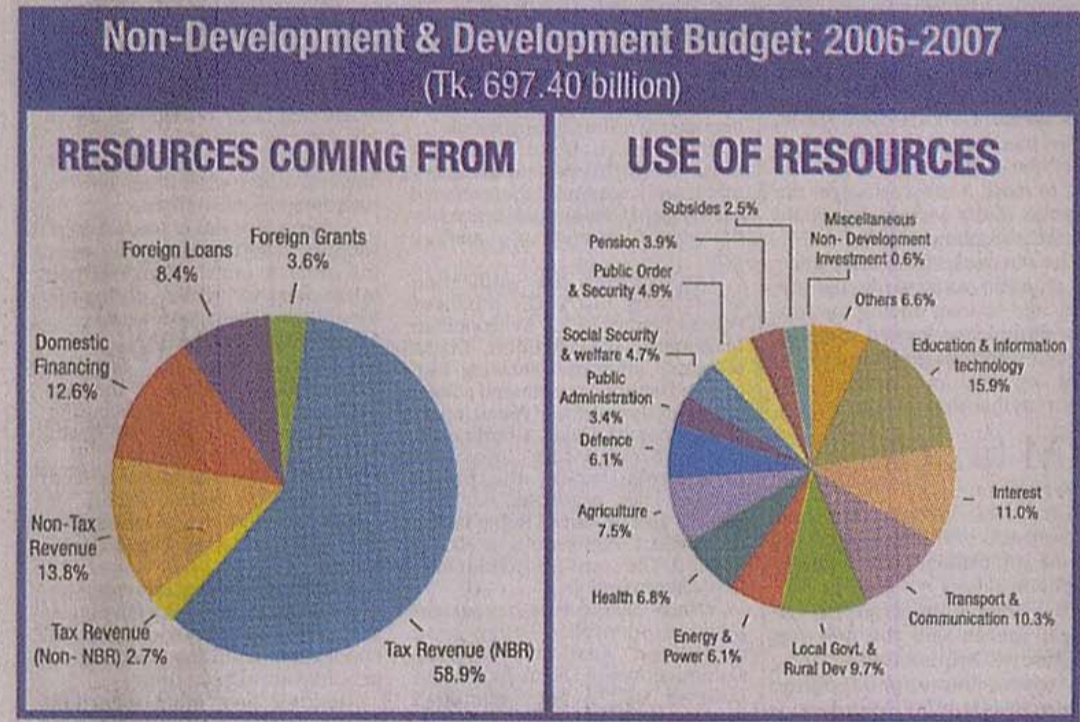
Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) returned to normalcy yesterday as factories there resumed operations amid tight security after a four-day shut down following workers' unrest in the ready-made garment industry hub.

Excepting some minor incidents, production went on peacefully in 82 factories out of 84 with 95 percent workers' attendance. Factories outside DEPZ also continued operations peacefully as no violence was reported in any of the factories.

Investors, factory owners and workers expressed their relief with the reopening of DEPZ after it was shut down twice due to workers' unrest since May 22.

"I am very happy about the turn out of workers," Mr Kihak Sung, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Youngone Group in DEPZ said yesterday from Korea during a videoconference with the executive chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza).

Sung also requested Bepza Executive Chairman Brig Gen Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf to also monitor factory management SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



**Iraqi Qaeda chief Zarqawi killed**

AP, Baghdad

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq who led a bloody campaign of suicide bombings and kidnappings, has been killed in an air raid north of Baghdad, a major victory in the US-led war in Iraq and the broader war on terror.

Iraq's prime minister and US officials said his identity was confirmed by fingerprints and a first-hand look at his face.

The announcement came six days after the Jordanian-born terror leader appeared in a videotape, railing against Shias in Iraq and saying militias are raping women and killing Sunnis and the community must fight back.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said al-Zarqawi was killed along with seven aides Wednesday evening in a house 30 miles northeast of Baghdad in the volatile province of Diyala, just east of the provincial capital of Baqouba, al-Maliki said.

"Today, al-Zarqawi was eliminated," al-Maliki told a news conference, drawing loud applause from reporters as he was flanked by US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and US Gen. George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq.

Al-Maliki said the air strike was the result of intelligence reports provided to Iraqi security forces by residents in the area, and US forces acted on the information. SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

**SIM tax cut Tk 100**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget has reduced tax on SIM (subscriber identity module) card or cellphone connection from Tk 900 to Tk 800.

Customs duties on imported telephone sets, both mobile and fixed phones, have also been cut to Tk 200 per set from Tk 300. SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

**World football fiesta kicks off today**

Germany take on Costa Rica, Poland face Ecuador

What ultimately makes the World Cup more thrilling, exciting and dramatic than even the Olympic Games is simply that more people care passionately about what happens in the competition.

From Togo to Trinidad and Tobago, Australia to Angola and Italy to the Ivory Coast, billions will be following the fortunes of their favourites from the kickoff to the final in Berlin on July 9. Millions more from Austria to Zambia and from Zimbabwe to Andorra and every other country not in the world's greatest sporting event. SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

**Prayer Timing**

	June 9	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



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