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Donors doubt budget's full utilisation in FY07

But praise implementation of many action plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The donor community expressed scepticism about the government's ability to achieve the development goal of the next year's budget despite the fact that it had successfully implemented many key action plans jointly set by itself and the development partners.

The development partners expressed their doubt yesterday at a meeting of the Joint Committee for Monitoring the Implementation Progress of Poverty Reduction Strategy held in the National Economic Council auditorium.

The donors at the meeting stressed the need for civil service reform to facilitate better utilisation of the next year's budget.

"I think there will be difficulties in increasing utilisation of development budgets. If you have three

governments in one year, full utilisation of budgets is much harder," David Wood, chief of the Department for International Development of UK in Bangladesh, told reporters after the meeting.

However, if right people are appointed and if political support for the process is maintained it should be possible to see good progress, he said.

The government and development partners earlier in November last year set 11 key achievable action points. The coming fiscal is the first one during which those points are to be implemented in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Pro-poor allocations in the budget, annual development programme (ADP) in line with the PRSP broadened and increased block grants for union parishads (UP), and extension of medium

term budgetary framework (MTBF) for 10 ministries are among the 11 action points.

In the progress status report the government said 68 percent of the allocation for ADP was proposed to be spent for MTBFs, which are directly related to poverty reduction in the country.

The report said grant allocation for UPs was enhanced and between Tk 6 lakh and Tk 11 lakh will be allocated to each UP during the next three fiscals, and 25 percent of the UPs will be covered in the next fiscal as part of the poverty reduction strategy (PRS).

Economic Relations Division Secretary Ismail Zabiullah presided over the meeting and said many of the action plans had been successfully implemented and a few are under process to be implemented.

RAMNA KALI MANDIR Shifting to hurt religious sentiment

Says puja body
DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Puja Ujapan Parishad of Ramna Kali Mandir and Anandamoyee Asram yesterday said a certain quarter's bid to shift the temple and sanctuary from its original location is unwanted and it will hurt the Hindu's religious sentiment.

They said State Minister for

Workers' unrest at DEPZ again

JU CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand readymade garment (RMG) workers of Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) came out of their workplace once again yesterday and demanded immediate resumption of operations at all units.

Workers of Youngone Group (YG) refrained from work yesterday after they failed to convince factory



Acting president, ministers, politicians, high officials and common people take part in the special prayers after the namaz-e-Janaza of Birsreshtho Matiur Rahman in the National Parade Ground prior to the Liberation War hero's burial at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard yesterday.

Hero laid to rest at home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was 11:40am yesterday when the members of Bangladesh Air Force slowly lowered the national flag covered coffin containing the remains of Birsreshtho Matiur Rahman into the grave at Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard in Mirpur.

Matiur Rahman, the brave son of the soil who sacrificed his life during the Liberation War, got abode in the homeland after 35 years to take eternal rest with full state honour.

Milly Rahman, the widow of Matiur, Tuhin Matiur Haider, the

younger daughter, and other relatives were in tears when the members of the Armed Forces Division were offering state salute to the late hero during the burial.

"I was just eight months old when my father died. So when I touched the coffin yesterday, I felt as if I touched my father," said Tuhin just before burial of her father's remains.

"He [Matiur] is lying in the soil of Bangladesh and it has happened in my life time. At last he got the real honour and respect for what he did during the Liberation War," Milly Rahman said.

The members of the Armed Forces Division offered salute to the coffin as the hearse carrying the coffin reached Mirpur graveyard from National Parade Square. Several senior ministers, high government officials, relatives of Matiur and people from all walks of life were waiting for the coffin to reach there.

Air Force members carried the coffin to the grave. Twenty shots were fired in the air in his honour. People put floral wreaths on the coffin and offered prayer for the eternal peace of his soul.

Jamaat in '71 labelled Matiur as betrayer

Noor tells JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh had labelled Birsreshtho Matiur Rahman as a betrayer in 1971, Awami League (AL) lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor told the House yesterday.

The then chief of Jamaat-e-Islami sent a condolence message to the Pakistan government for the death of a co-pilot, labelling Matiur

SHAZNEEN CASE

Hasan planned, others executed the crime
Says prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution in the death reference and appeal hearing of Shazneen murder case yesterday said the witnesses' accounts and circum

Bigots driven out of Uttara streets

Anti-Ahmadiyya zealots vow to enforce hartal again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday kept the anti-Ahmadiyya bigots at bay who attempted to enforce hartal in five northern police station areas in the capital and on its outskirts in a bid to pressurise the government to declare the Ahmadiyya community

non-Muslim.

After their failure on Friday to lay siege to an Ahmadiyya mosque at Uttara, the Khatme Nabuwat Andolan Bangladesh zealots had vowed to enforce dawn to dusk hartal in Khilkhet, Uttara, Airport, Turag, and Tongi police station

RU appoints 7 teachers

Ignores selection board decision
RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) Syndicate appointed seven teachers in the Department of Law and Justice ignoring recommendations of the department's planning committee and a decision of the university selection board.

One of the newly appointed is an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader, who was earlier disqualified by the selection board, sources said.

Economy not doing as well as it could

US envoy laments poor governance at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US ambassador in Dhaka Patricia A Butenis identified poor governance as the single largest obstacle to economic stability and growth in Bangladesh.

"Weakness in governance is most visibly highlighted by rampant corruption in government to business relations. Government, private sector and individuals are culpable of corrupt business practices in Bangladesh," the US envoy said.

Referring to expert opinions she told a seminar yesterday that two percent of gross domestic product (GDP) is lost due to corruption and lapses in governance. She said although foreign investors are showing interest in Bangladesh, governance failure is preventing the interest from turning into significant investment in near term.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day long seminar on good governance she noted that the reputation of Bangladesh both internally and globally suffers greatly due to corruption.

"Though it was told that Bangladesh economy was doing well but in our view it is not doing

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Moni Swapan not resigning on assurance by high-ups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan changed his decision to resign from the ministry over disputes with his secretary as party high-ups assured him of resolving the problems.

MP Pintu sues Prothom Alo Janakantha for defamation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court issued summons upon the editor and the publisher of the daily Prothom Alo to appear before it following a defamation case filed by the ruling BNP



Fasting for the ninth consecutive day, a number of striking community primary school teachers fell sick on the premises of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Some of them have been given intravenous saline.

Prayer Timing
June 26

	Azani	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-57
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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