

DCC budget 20pc higher

Khoka puts accent on mosquito control



Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka announces the DCC budget yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday announced a Tk 677.34 crore budget for the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for the ongoing fiscal 2002-03, Tk 421 crore of which is to come in government allocation and foreign aid.

No new tax has been imposed in the proposed budget, the mayor said in his first budgetary speech at the conference room of the Nagar Bhaban. City ward commissioners were also present.

The mayor also presented the revised budget of Tk 401.34 crore for fiscal 2001-2002. The revised budget and new budget were unanimously passed earlier during a meeting of the ward commissioners on June 9, the mayor said.

The proposed budget is 20 per cent or Tk 115.05 crore bigger than the previous one of Tk 562.29 crore. It is also Tk 267 crore higher than that of the revised budget of Tk 401.34 crore of the immediate past fiscal.

In the last budget, the DCC approved a revised Tk 401.34 crore budget after trimming down Tk 160.95 crore from the original figure of Tk 562.29 crore.

The proposed budget earmarked a development expenditure of Tk 408.77 crore and a maintenance expenditure of Tk 268.57 crore.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Flood rages as heavy rain continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floods in many districts, especially in north- and south-west of the country, have worsened with rain continuing.

In Sirajganj, the water level in the Jamuna has risen by 12cm, inundating new areas in 27 unions close to the river.

The areas in five upazilas -- Sadar, Belkuchi, Chouhali, Kazirpur and Shahjadpur -- went under water in the last 24 hours, official sources said.

Displaced were more than 1,000 families in Satiatuli, Faidabad, Boutara, Dukhliabari.

The new areas inundated are Koizuri, Gala and Parjona. Meanwhile, more than one hundred families went to safety in Sadar thana.

In Noakhali, new areas in Begumganj, Hatiya, Chatkhali and Senbagh were flooded, forcing many to live in the open. Hundreds of people moved on to highlands, district officials said yesterday.

The floods destroyed more than 100km carpeted roads and 1,200km mud roads.

"Floods here are different. Rainwater is stagnated in most areas...floods here are manmade," said Mostafa Kamal Haider,

Noakhali district commissioner.

The district administration in Kurigram said the Dharla, the Kaunia and the Tista -- though now below the danger mark -- can cross it anytime.

"In fact, we don't have floods but the rising waters of the rivers are threatening," said Mesba-ul-Alam, Kurigram district commissioner.

In Chandpur, fresh areas adjacent to the Meghna, the Dakatia and the Padma were flooded in the last 24 hours.

In Sathkira, more areas were flooded as rain continued. The Ichhamati River flows close to the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

US, Bangladesh jt military exercise from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A combined Bangladesh and US Armed Forces military exercise will be held from July 13 to August 15. It has been named Exercise Balance Buffalo.

The exercise has been designed to exchange training cooperation and strengthen 'interoperability' between US Special forces and Bangladesh.

Apart from military aspects, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Assistance Response Training will also be carried out during the exercise.

An ISPR press release said the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

A mission on wheels

Aussie duo passes thru' city to raise MS awareness

DAN GREENWOOD

Ralph Dixon and Fionnuala Livingston, natives of Australia recently passed through Dhaka on their motorcycle journey around the world. Their purpose is to spread awareness and educate people, especially children, about multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects the nervous system.

Multiple sclerosis, or MS as it is commonly called, is a neurological disease that affects the nervous system. It can cause periodic episodes of poor coordination, fatigue, paralysis and even blindness. These episodes may happen only once, or they may happen frequently throughout the victim's life.

Dixon, a former truck driver and worker at the Sydney dockyards, was diagnosed with MS in late 2000 after experiencing symptoms ranging from severe headaches and blurred vision to numbness throughout the limbs.

Once he was diagnosed, Dixon and his friend became aware of how little knowledge people had regarding MS, particularly in Australia. It was at this point that Fionnuala suggested they mix Ralph's passion for motorcycles with raising funds for research to find a cure.

They noted the influence that celebrities have had in bringing attention to previously obscure diseases. Dixon cites actor Michael J. Fox as a prime example. "When he (Fox) was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, people began to take notice. We can raise awareness regarding MS by doing something unusual like riding a bike around the world. These diseases are very similar and most doctors believe that if a



PHOTO: STAR

Australian Ralph Dixon and Fionnuala Livingston are on a motorcycle journey around the world with a stopover in front of The Daily Star office yesterday. Their mission is to spread awareness about multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects the nervous system.

cure is discovered for one, the cure for the other will follow quickly too."

They have confidence that a cure can be found if enough attention is given to the disease. "If you look at Polio, just a century ago there was no known cure, but when it began to receive attention, funding for research increased and now it is as easy as receiving a shot," said Dixon.

Trekking across Australia, the friends flew their bike to Singapore and began their five-month overland journey to London where they

will commemorate their travels on November 4. After riding through Malaysia and arriving in Bangkok, the duo discovered their Visa to travel across Myanmar had been revoked as tensions with Thailand have been on the rise.

They had been in Dhaka for a week as they wait for their bike to be flown to Zia International Airport from Bangkok. They have to pay US\$1000 to fly the bike from Bangkok to Dhaka from their own pocket, the glitch in their journey so far.

After experiencing a week in Bangladesh, Dixon said, "this is the friendliest country we've visited so far".

The two left for Kolkata yesterday morning, where they will visit schools, hold rallies and seminars to educate the public on MS. While many countries have an MS society to arrange rallies and seminars for the public, Bangladesh currently has none, and knowledge regarding the disease is limited.

Although the travelers have to pay their own way for much of the trip, they are receiving financial support from the Rotary Club and some corporate sponsors such as BMW, who have provided him with a 650cc motorcycle for his travels.

As Dixon sees it, the corporate world has been less than helpful when it comes to sponsoring the trip. "Even the pharmaceutical company that supplies drugs to help treat MS declined to help us. Perhaps if we were traveling through wealthier countries like the US, they would see the financial incentives."

The globetrotters left Dhaka after their bike arrived. They will now travel through India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and then move up through Turkey and Europe before arriving at London in November. They now realize that while other cultures can learn about MS from them, they also can learn about the countries they visit. "By traveling and meeting new people, we all learn to understand each other a little bit more," said Livingston.

For more information on multiple sclerosis and the duo's journey around the world, or to provide donations for MS research, visit: www.weride4ms.org



PHOTO: STAR

Railroad tracks bent in a blaze after the Subarna Express slammed into a fuel tank lorry at the Progoti Swarani rail crossing in the city yesterday.

Indirect polls to FBCCI suggested

UNB, Dhaka

A reform committee yesterday recommended "indirect election" to choose the country's apex tradebody president and two vice-presidents from a 36-member board of directors for a two-year term.

The Trade Body Reforms Committee, headed by Latifur Rahman, submitted its recommendations to Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury for necessary amendment to the existing trade organisation rules for introducing the new system of elections.

"The committee submitted its recommendations today for consideration of the government," Khosru told waiting newsmen after submission of the report in a meeting at his office yesterday.

"What they recommended is their affairs. We'll let you know after necessary scrutiny and finalisation," he said responding to queries. He however said none on the seven-member committee would compete elections within one year

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Hasina slams Cheney sued for stock fraud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina has bitterly criticised the ruling BNP for its move to raise remuneration and privileges for the legislators while the people are living in utter poverty.

"They (ruling party) are trying to enhance the privileges irrationally by imposing taxes on the common man," the Awami League (AL) chief told a gathering of party leaders and workers at the district AL office yesterday.

Hasina talked on various issues like closure of Adamjee Jute Mills, gas export, repression on party leaders and activists, law and order and violence at educational institutions across the country. She asked her party men to prepare for a vigorous movement against this 'failed government.'

Referring to Adamjee closure, she said the government has taken a foolish decision regarding the world's biggest jute mill and thereby snatched away jobs of thousands, putting at stake survival of more than a lakh of their dependants.

The former prime minister also said the national economy is 'about to collapse' as the government is 'destroying' industries and factories. "This is why foreign investors

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Cheney sued for stock fraud

AFP, Miami

One day after US President George W. Bush vowed to get tough on corporate fraud, an anti-corruption watchdog group Wednesday sued Vice President Dick Cheney and his former employer US oil services group Halliburton Co. for alleged fraudulent accounting practices.

"Cheney is sued ... as a direct participant, aider and abettor, and co-conspirator in the fraudulent acts, omissions and schemes," the lawsuit filed by Judicial Watch stated.

"We can show, and we are confident that we will, that Vice President Cheney broke the law," Judicial Watch chairman Larry Klayman said at a news conference.

The suit against Halliburton, Cheney, the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen and others was filed after Bush appeared on Wall Street with a pledge to get tough with corporate fraud.

The Texas-based oil services giant Halliburton acknowledged in late May that it was being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission for its accounting practices when Cheney was its chief executive officer from

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

'Criminal' shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal belonging to the Pagla Liton group, a crime cartel, was shot in the city's Moghbazar area Tuesday night.

Gunmen of the Pagla Shahid group, another crime cartel in the city, shot Mohammad Ali, 20, dragging him out of his Moghbazar residence at about 11.00pm, said sources.

Ali was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). His condition is deteriorating.

No case was registered in this regard till filing of the report at 7.00 last night.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 12		6-49 pm
July 13	5-19 am	
Prayer Timings		
July 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		