

# Tk 265.98crore KCC budget announced

### No need for Khulna Development Authority: Mayor Tayebur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman yesterday announced a Tk 265.98 crore budget of Khulna City Corporation for 2004-05 fiscal year.

In the proposed budget, Tk 36.24 crore has been earmarked as revenue income while Tk 229.51 crore as development grants.

No new tax has been imposed. The budget envisages construction of Khalishpur

Community Complex, Mayor Bhaban, picnic corner at Rajbandh, crematory for Hindus, renovation and development of important roads through asphalt plants, implementation of an interim water supply project at Phultala and installation of 40 shallow tubewells in the city.

The revised budget for last fiscal year (2003-04) stood at Tk 57.26 crore.

Announcing the new budget at a press conference at the Zia Hall, Tayebur termed it a development-oriented surplus budget.

He said there is no need to maintain an autonomous body like Khulna Development Authority (KDA) as it has failed to serve the purpose for which it was established.

"Thus a huge amount of money, required for maintaining the KDA, could be diverted to strengthening the KCC," he added.

Stressing the need for setting up of a separate 'Planning Cell' in KCC and other city corporations of the country, Tayebur said a conference of the mayors will be held in Dhaka shortly with this end in view.

"I have been authorised to call such a conference as the eldest mayor of the country," he said.

Mayors of Chittagong and Sylhet City Corporations have already given their consent for the conference aimed at greater development of the country sinking political differences, Tayebur added.

While announcing the budget, he expressed his resentment for the reluctance of city dwellers to pay the taxes.

This was the 10th budget Tayebur placed as elected mayor of KCC.



PHOTO: STAR

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a workshop on 'Problems of governance and way out' at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Sitting from right are Azizur Rahman, Prof. M Ataur Rahman, Prof. M Asaduzzaman and Mizanur Rahman Shelley.

# End parliament boycott culture to ensure good governance

### Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for an end to 'parliament boycott culture' to make parliamentary democracy more effective and ensure good governance.

Good governance still remains elusive because of boycott of parliament by the successive opposition parties and non-cooperation from the government, they said.

The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) and the Social Science Research Council of the Ministry of Planning, co-organised the workshop on 'Problems of governance

and way out' in the city.

Bangladesh has all the pre-requisites for good governance but the challenge is how to establish it, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said as chief guest at the inaugural session.

Political will and accountability of the government are a must for ensuring good governance, he said.

Referring to the opposition's role, Moudud said active participation of the opposition can make parliament effective but they have been boycotting it because they could not accept

the defeat in the election.

About the independent anti-corruption commission, the minister said the head of the commission should be courageous and exercise his power properly to make it effective.

Speaking as special guest, Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, said good governance is yet to be established as there is a lack of check and balance among legislature, judiciary and the executive.

Parliament has been non-functional since the inception of parliamentary democracy as both the BNP and the AL remain absent from the House whenever they are in the opposition, he said.

"Today bureaucracy is unfortunate victim of politicisation which is an impediment to normal functioning of the state mechanism," Anam said.

He said accountability of the government and internal democracy in the party are a must for establishing good governance.

Professor M Ataur Rahman, chairman of the CGS, presented a keynote paper at the workshop.

He said parliament has become almost irrelevant as a forum for political discourse and decision-making.

The opposition in Bangladesh always prefers to take streets rather than discuss the issues in parliament, he said.

Prof. Rahman also said the political leaders act mostly for personal and party interest.

Presided over by University Grants Commission Chairman Professor M Asaduzzaman, the inaugural session was also addressed by Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman of the Centre for Development Research Bangladesh, and Azizur Rahman, executive director of the CGS.

# Hasina blames govt for bus arson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday blamed the government for the arson at a double-decker bus on Friday night that left ten people burnt to death, and said the ruling alliance men did it to justify enactment of a law to ban hartal.

"There is no doubt they (government) engineered the incident on the night before the hartal (called by the AL) just to find a pretext for banning hartal," alleged Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament.

The AL chief was addressing a discussion in observance of the historic Six-point Day, organised by her party and held at the Engineers' Institution in the capital.

tal.

On June 7 in 1966, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had put forward a six-point demand for provincial autonomy when this country was under the rule of Pakistani military dictator Ayub Khan.

Hasina said the ruling coalition blamed her party for the tragic incident on Friday just as it did in the cases of major bomb blasts and arms hauls in Bogra and Chittagong. "They (present rulers) do so to save the criminals they shelter and to divert people's attention from it," she added.

Referring to a senior police official's reported bid to bribe a state minister, the opposition leader said, "Either the minister takes bribe from policemen or the police official (later arrested) did not offer him bribe as claimed by him."

"The arrested police officer, who was supervising investigation into the killing of Ahsanullah Master MP, had found BNP leaders were involved in the incident. That is why such a drama was staged to

hinder the probe," Hasina said.

Hasina said 'communal and fundamentalist groups' are making the country a 'haven' for them under the prime minister's patronage.

She alleged relatives of a state minister are linked to armed training of religious extremist groups in Chittagong.

The AL president called upon people to build up a mass upsurge to get rid of the 'oppressive' rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance.

Others who spoke included AL leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mohammad Hanif and intellectual Mostafa Nurul Islam.

Earlier in the day, Hasina along with other leaders and workers of the party placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Smriti Museum.

# Jawadul Karim laid to rest

UNB, Dhaka

Jawadul Karim, an eminent journalist and press advisor to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, was laid to rest at Banani graveyard yesterday afternoon.

Karim died on Sunday following cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 65.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram mosque after Zohr prayers. Political leaders, former civil servants, journalists, friends and admirers attended the janaza.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at the Jatiya Press Club.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visited the residence of late Karim at Eskaton



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting police action on journalists during hartal hours on June 5.



Norwegian Ambassador Aud Lise Norheim, centre, speaks at a "Face to Face" programme with female journalists at the Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication conference room in the city yesterday.

# Bring killers of Didar to book immediately: BJP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jaitiya Party yesterday called on the government to bring the killers of BJP leader Golam Parvez Didar immediately.

Unknown assailants killed Didar, president of BJP's youth front Bangladesh Jaitiya Juba Sanghati, on June 1.

In a joint statement, BJP Chairman Naziur Rahman and Secretary General Kazi Firoz Rashid expressed concern at the failure of the police to make any headway in the investigation into the killing.

Describing newspaper coverage on the killing as misleading, they said, "We want to make it clear that there is no internal feud in the BJP."

They also denied any link between the BJP and the construction work of Roads and Highways Department (RHD). Arrest of the real killers would unravel the truth, they added.

DHAKA  
T O D A Y

**Dance drama**  
Nityanchal will stage dance drama 'Chitrangada' by Rabindranath Tagore. The drama will be conducted by Dr Mohua Mukhopadhyay of Kolkata. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 7.00pm.

**Herbert Achternbusch retrospective**  
The Goethe Institut, in collaboration with Zahir Raihan Film Society, will screen two films by New German auteur filmmaker Herbert Achternbusch. The films are 'The Andechs Feeling' (1974) and 'Beer War' (1976). Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road- 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

**Academy film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen a French film titled 'Ma Vie En Rose' (1997). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

**Muldhara meeting**  
Weekly opinion sharing meeting of Muldhara International Centre will be held. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.30pm.

**Roundtable**  
A roundtable on 'Indoor air pollution in Bangladesh', organised by Environment and Social Development Organisation, will be held. Venue: Press Institute of Bangladesh, Circuit House Road. Time: 10.00am.

**Seminar**  
A seminar on 'Challenges and opportunities of e-business in Bangladesh', organised by Daffodil Institute of IT, will be held. Venue: DIIT auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

**Talk**  
French Embassy Trade Commissioner Dominique Simon will deliver a talk on 'Prevailing business opportunities with France.' Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan. Time: 12.30pm.

**AL meeting**  
A meeting of the central committee of Mohila Awami League will be held with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Community Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00am.

**Study circle**  
Community Development Library (CDL) organises a study circle on 'Bangladesh: Portrait of a Nation-State.' Venue: CDL auditorium, House-39, Road-14/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.30pm.

**Rotary meeting**  
Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

**Human chain**  
Left Gonotantrik Front will form a human chain in protest against the employment of foreign consultants in nationalised commercial banks. Venue: In front of Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel. Time: 11.30am.

DHAKA  
T O M O R R O W

**Herbert Achternbusch retrospective**  
The Goethe Institut, in collaboration with Zahir Raihan Film Society, will screen two films by New German auteur filmmaker Herbert Achternbusch. The films are 'The Last Place on Earth' (1981) and 'She is an Olympic Winner' (1983). Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road- 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

**Academy film show**  
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Killing Me Softly' (2003). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.