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Current budget set to be downsized 5.9pc

Dearth of foreign aid, poor revenue collection key reasons

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to downsize the current budget by 5.9 per cent due to declining foreign aid, poor revenue collection and slow implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP).

According to a preliminary estimate by the finance ministry, the government may slash the ADP by 23 per cent but it may increase the revenue budget by five per cent. Overall revenue in the revised budget may decline but non-tax revenue may increase due to recovery of illegal money from corrupt people.

Already Tk 270 crore illegal

money of seven businessmen has been retrieved and deposited in the national exchequer. The government expects that a handsome amount would be recovered from the same people in the next two months.

Finance ministry officials already made preliminary changes in the current budget early this month, and sources said there would be a few more changes after consultation with different ministries.

The original budget for the current fiscal year (FY06-07) is Tk 69,740 crore, and the revised estimate has set the figure at Tk 65,570 crore, by cutting Tk 4,170 crore,

sources said. As per the preliminary estimate, the government may cut the ADP by Tk 6,000 crore and set it at Tk 20,000 crore. And non-development expenditure may rise to Tk 45,570 crore from Tk 43,740 crore now.

On the increase of non-development expenditure, sources said government payment against interest on foreign and local loans is the main reason for the rise.

In the original budget, the government allocated Tk 7,640 crore as interest on foreign and local loans but in the revised budget, total interest payment may stand at Tk 9,050 crore.

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HC refuses to accept Hasina's writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday refused to accept a writ petition seeking a directive for the authorities not to arrest or harass Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina on her return home.

An HC bench turned down the application for permission to file the petition on grounds of procedural flaws.

The lawyers who moved for it then went to another bench but that too declined to receive the affidavit regarding the intended petition.

Barrister Shafique Ahmed and Mahubey Alam are among the lawyers working towards a court order not to detain Hasina on her arrival.

Speaking to the reporters, they said some flaws were there in the

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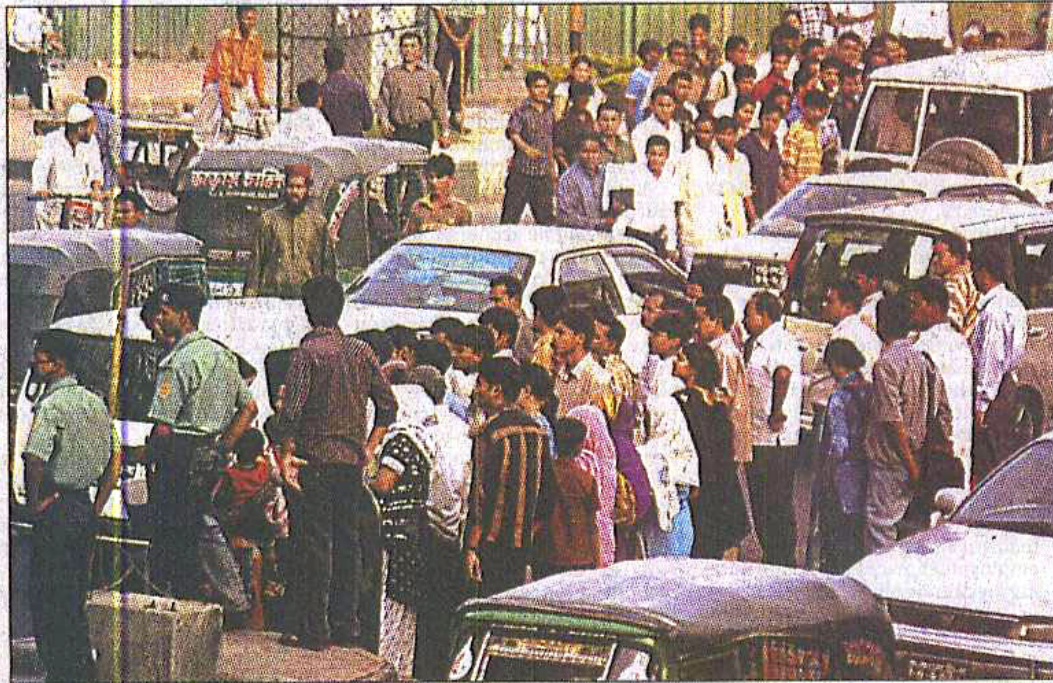


PHOTO: STAR

Pedestrians dodge moving vehicles to cross Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at the busy Banglamotor intersection in the capital as there is no foot over-bridge or underpass there. The photo was taken yesterday.

Khaleda yet to get Umrah visa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia did not get visa for Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah as of yesterday. Brigadier (retd) Hannan Shah told reporters that Khaleda is not leaving the country now as the formalities to get her visa did not complete. "It will take some time to get the Saudi visa for her," he said.

Party sources said the Saudi government did not agree to issue visa for the former premier as it thinks that Khaleda is not going to Saudi Arabia willingly.

Party leaders meanwhile alleged that Khaleda's movement is still being controlled because she could not attend a scheduled programme yesterday although the government earlier said there is no restriction on her movement.

Khaleda did not attend the chehnam of late BNP leader KM Obaidur Rahman at the deceased

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Proposal sent to EC for ban on party-affiliated student bodies

Says Mainul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government has sent a set of proposals to the Election Commission (EC) for banning party-affiliated student organisations and trade unions, Law Adviser Mainul Hossain said yesterday.

"I have told the chief election commissioner (CEC) that there should be a law so that no political party can use the teachers and students to its advantage," he said talking to journalists at his secretariat office.

Asked if a draft has been made, he answered in the negative.

He said the government believes there should not be party-affiliated student and labour bodies in public or private institutions.

"We are not talking about a complete ban on student politics, but we must keep the students out of party politics," Mainul said adding that the political organisations should not have wings in schools, colleges and universities.

The students and teachers

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ACC's first charge sheets against 5 in graft cases

Accused include MK Alamgir, Mir Nasir, Amanullah Aman

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against three detained ex-state ministers and two of their family members in connection with three graft cases filed for amassing huge wealth through corruption and abuse of power.

This is the first time the ACC submitted charge sheets against them in connection with graft cases filed with different police stations in March this year.

The charge-sheeted accused are

former state minister for planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, ex-state minister for civil aviation and tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, ex-state minister for labour and employment Amanullah Aman, Nasir's son barrister Mir Mohammad Helal Uddin and Aman's wife Sabera Aman.

The investigation officers (IOs) of the cases submitted the charge sheets to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka showing 12 people for each of the cases as prosecution witnesses.

On March 6, the ACC filed cases against them as they had allegedly amassed huge wealth through corruption and abuse of power.

CASE AGAINST ALAMGIR ACC deputy directors (DD) Sharmin Ferdousi and Jibon Krishna Roy, also the IOs of the case, submitted the charge sheet of the case filed against Alamgir with Tejgaon Police Station on March 6.

In the charge sheet, the IOs alleged that he has Tk 1.17 crore in six fixed-deposit accounts with the IFIC Bank Karwan Bazar branch.

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SIRAJGANJ 450 MW POWER PLANT Project delayed further as third tender cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Power Cell yesterday cancelled the third tender of the Sirajganj 450 megawatt power project.

In a letter to the eight pre-qualified bidders of the third tender, the Cell said the government has decided to appoint a consultant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to supervise the tender for the project. Under the circumstances, the ongoing tender process has been cancelled, the letter added.

The fresh pre-qualification process will be initiated soon, the letter said, regretting inconvenience

caused to the bidders--AES (USA), YTL (Malaysia), GMR (India), Globelec-Summit Consortium (UK-Bangladesh joint venture), Manning Industries (USA), Marubeni Corporation (Japan), Orion-Delta (local), Esser Power-PPP Consortium (India).

Sources said the cancellation will delay the project by at least another six months, even if it is given highest emphasis.

The move has also disappointed the bidders each of which had purchased tender documents worth \$20,000, they said.

A source noted that such a

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JUDGES' APPOINTMENT It'd need 20yrs to remove irregularities, says CJ

UNB, Noakhali

The irregularities in appointment of judges in the past will need at least 20 years to remove, observed Chief Justice Ruhul Amin yesterday.

Addressing as chief guest at a reception accorded to senior lawyers at the Noakhali bar in the afternoon, he said there is no scope of indiscipline in the judiciary. A judge must be prudent and he must follow the code of conduct, the chief justice added.

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Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER

Standard Chartered

Agreement for sharing ATM Network



Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited and Standard Chartered Bank sign an agreement for sharing ATM Network. Abul Kashem Md. Shirin, Senior Executive Vice President and Head of Information Technology of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited and Vikram Issar, Head of Consumer Banking, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Md. Yeasin Ali, Managing Director of DBBL, Osman Morad, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, A.H.M. Nazmul Quadir, Additional Managing Director of DBBL, Tanvir Haider Chaudhury, Head of Shared Distribution & Service Quality of SCB, Monitur Rahman, Head of IT of SCB, K.S. Tabrez, Deputy Managing Director (Administration) & Ghulam Kabir, Deputy Managing Director (Operation) of DBBL were present on the occasion. At present DBBL has the largest ATM Network in Bangladesh.

We are committed towards improving banking services for our valued customers.