

## Tk 1009cr DCC budget

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The corporation will spend Tk 4 crore for modernisation and renovation of the rides offered by the Shishu Park and Tk 7.50 crore for development of different parks and playgrounds. Tk 1 crore and Tk 10.50 crore were allocated for these in the current year.

The amount earmarked for development and maintenance of roads, traffic infrastructure, footpaths, foot bridges and underpasses, bus/truck terminals, mediastands and electrification of roads stands at Tk 170.40 crore. It was Tk 163.50 crore last year.

In 2008-09, development and construction of community centres, slaughterhouses and car parks will cost the corporation Tk 39 crore.

Mayor Khoka in his speech said, "We haven't imposed any new holding tax on the citizens. Instead, we have decided to increase revenue collection."

The DCC aims to earn Tk 521.57 crore in revenues in the upcoming fiscal year. In 2007-08, the revenue target was Tk 478.45 crore while earning was Tk 400.59 crore.

For development programmes in the coming year, the DCC will rely more on funds from government and donor agencies. Its allocation for the sector adds up to Tk 692.90 crore. In the last budget, it was Tk 1098.91 crore, but the corporation could spend only Tk 443.43 crore.

According to the budget, Tk 100 crore will come from the government block allocation, Tk 100 crore from special allocation, Tk 242.90 crore from either the government

or foreign-funded projects and private investments and Tk 9 crore from other sources.

In his budget speech, the DCC mayor could not assure that there would be an end to unplanned road digging anytime soon.

He said without coordination between different utility service providers, it is not possible to give the city people a respite from sufferings caused by diggings.

Khoka called for the government to bring Rajdhami Unnayan Kartipakkha and Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority under the city corporation.

He also suggested forming a separate organisation to deal with projects to save the rivers around the capital.

Holding tax is the single largest source of revenues for the DCC. The corporation targets to earn Tk 255 crore from it in the upcoming year. It realised Tk 176 crore in holding tax in 2007-08 while the target was Tk 230 crore.

For 2008-09, the corporation expects Tk 45 crore from its markets, Tk 36 crore from trade licence fees, Tk 2.50 crore from rickshaw licence fees, Tk 9 crore from advertisements, Tk 11.50 crore from bus/truck terminals, Tk 13 crore from cattle markets, Tk 2.50 crore from leased out toilets and ghats, Tk 44 crore from road digging fees, Tk 9 crore from equipment rents, Tk 3.50 crore from children's parks, Tk 2.50 crore from community centres, Tk 1.50 crore from graveyards and cremation grounds and Tk 56 crore from land handover.

## Five AL leaders

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Mizanur Rahman Mizan and KCC commissioner of ward no 23 Imam Hasan Chowdhury Moim.

The four men accused of murdering the AL leader are Ganesh Banerjee, Shukur Gazi, Rabbi alias Ripon and Shahadat. Another accused earlier in the main charge sheet, Imam Sarder, was killed in a crossfire incident on August 20 in 2004.

All five are known to be outlaws from the banned Bilpobi Communist Party and Jonojuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

Inspector Chittya Ranjan Pal of Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police, who was responsible for further investigation of the case, said in his supplementary charge sheet that he was not able to find any evidence in support of the AL leaders' involvement.

Slain Manjural's eldest son Abdullah Haroon Rumi, a prosecution witness of the case, said in his deposition in the court on February 25 that the named five AL leaders had planned his father's murder.

The judge of the Speedy Trial Court then sent the docket of the case back to the CMM's Court for further investigation following an appeal by Special Public Prosecutor advocate Abu Zafar on March 18.

The CMM ordered the IO to submit the supplementary charge sheet by June 15.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Haroon Rumi has said that his family would later comment on the supplementary charge sheet.

"We will not let his murder go unpunished," Rumi said in a reaction, and questioned the IO's impartiality in the case.

City AL general secretary Mizanur Rahman Mizan and ward commissioner Moim, whose names were cleared from the charges, expressed their satisfaction over the investigation.

Khulna City AL president advocate Manjural Imam was killed in a bomb attack on the morning of August 25 in 2003 in front of his residence at Shamsur Rahman road in Khulna Sadar thana.

His assistant Advocate Bijon Bihari who was with him on a rickshaw at the time and the rickshaw puller Sayedul Islam, later succumbed to their injuries sustained in the attack.

## Legal experts

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Submitting two pleas -- one for adjournment of the case and the other seeking overseas medical treatment for his client, barrister Rafiq during the hearing said the proceedings of the case should be adjourned as Tarique is incapable of attending the trial due to health reasons.

Tarique's condition did not improve to a "satisfactory" level despite ongoing treatment in the country, he added.

Out of the eight accused in the case, Tarique "could not be produced" due to illness, while Babar and Abu Sufian, director of East-West Property Development Ltd, a concern of Bashundhara Group, were produced to stand trial before the court yesterday.

According to the report of the medical board formed for Tarique, his life is in danger and he risks going "physically invalid" for life unless proper treatment is ensured for him soon, said barrister Rafique adding that Tarique should be sent abroad before he becomes disabled.

Opposing both the pleas of the defence, Syed Shameem Ahsan Habib, the prosecution lawyer, said the state is conforming to its duty of ensuring Tarique's treatment in the country and the court does not have the jurisdiction over sending Tarique abroad for treatment.

On October 4 last year, Abul Kashem, deputy assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station, accusing six people including Babar for bribery involving the murder of Bashundhara Group Director Humayun Kabir Sabir.

Tarique was arrested on March 7 last year on extortion charges while Babar was arrested on May 29 last year.

## Advisory body

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and to ensure proper action on the recommendations of the CAG report by the various audit organisations.

The ad hoc PAC will not be a replacement for the PAC as it does not have the constitutional authority, parliamentary members, or the ability to uphold sanctions.

Rather, the proposed high-powered advisory committee can be made up of independent members who would provide advice to the president and to the incoming PAC, when it is constituted, on how to prioritise and clear the backlog of CAG reports.

A World Bank team recently visited Bangladesh and met various government departments to explore ways on how such a committee could be made up of non-parliamentarians while the constitution is still in effect. During the visit, a series of discussion and training sessions took place.

The government and the World Bank discussed on how the country would benefit from interim arrangements which will review audit findings and suggest measures for quick disposal of audit objections.

They discussed ways and the challenges of possible formation, relationship to new PAC when established, and how the Ministry of Finance would support the ad hoc committee.

## National Library

**FROM PAGE 1**  
gazetteer, more than six lakh books, microfilms, more than 4,000 maps of ancient Bangla and sophisticated machinery worth about Tk 2 crore, library sources said.

They said collections predominantly related to literature, cultural heritage including special collections on Dr Mohammad Shahidullah, Nawab Ali Chowdhury, and government documents of Bangladesh Secretariat Library are kept at the National Library and these are under threat now.

Air-conditioning is very important in preserving the documents and sophisticated machinery as they could get damaged in uncontrolled temperature, said an official of the library.

The National Library Bhaban was provided with air-conditioning under the first five-year plan in 1978 as the then government felt its necessity, sources said.

Mysteriously, the unique building has not yet been registered in the Public Works Department's register which serves for the department to refuse to pay for the restoration of electricity, library sources said.

Following a short-circuit incident in the main cable of the library from a power sub-station on May 21, power supply to the building was lost.

An official of the library said they first went to Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) but they told them that they would not be able to help them and suggested contacting the Public Works Department (PWD) in this regard. But the PWD also refused to take necessary steps as the building is not in their register.

PWD sources said about Tk 15 lakh will be required to make the repairs and they are waiting for the money to arrive from the cultural ministry since the library is under the ministry.

Library sources said even though they requested PWD to connect the building to the power supply from nearby New Archive Bhaban temporarily, PWD turned down their suggestion.

## HC rules

**FROM PAGE 1**  
government and Ain O Salish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, Daily New Age Editor Nurul Kabir and Assistant Professor of Dhaka University Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon on June 5 jointly filed the writ petition as public interest litigation challenging the legality of sections 3(3)(Kha) and 3(4) of the Emergency Powers Ordinance, 2007 and rules 11(3), 19(Gha), 19(Uma) of the Emergency Powers Rules, 2007.

The sections of the Emergency Powers Ordinance, 2007 provide death penalty and life-term imprisonment with fine for violating them and also any other rules with retrospective effect.

As per rule 11(3) of the Emergency Powers Rules, 2007, if any court convicts a person for committing corruption, no other court can grant bail to the convict or stay the conviction order until an appeal, if the accused chooses to file, is disposed of.

The two other rules do not allow an accused to pray for bail or any kind of redress with the court or tribunal during the investigation or enquiry of the offence.

Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam appeared for the petitioners while Additional Attorney General (AAG) Mansur Habib represented the government in the court.

## MK Anwar

**FROM PAGE 16**  
false cases against me over the incident," he said.

He said he gave Tk 2 lakh as extortion to Anwar on May 7 this year in order to get back his land.

Magistrate Sarwar Ahmed ordered officer in-charge at Homna Police Station to investigate the case.

Anwar was sent to jail on surrendered to a Dhaka court last month in connection with the Gatco graft case.

## MPs lose power

**FROM PAGE 1**  
polls to the upazila parishads should be held simultaneously with the parliamentary election, which is scheduled for December of this year.

The last Awami League (AL) government passed the Upazila Parishad Act empowering the EC to announce schedules for upazila elections.

However, amid a volatile political situation, the then EC could not hold the polls and later the same government amended the law and took away the authority from the EC.

Section 25 of the current law empowers lawmakers to become advisers to upazila parishads which are bound to accept their suggestions.

Once the new law is promulgated, lawmakers will have no power over upazila parishads and the EC will have the power to announce schedules for upazila polls through discussions with the central government, instead of taking approval from it.

The first election to upazila parishads was held in 1985 after its introduction in the local government system during the regime of military ruler HM Ershad.

But the very existence of upazila parishads faced a severe crisis following the second election in 1990 when Ershad stepped down in the face of a mass movement.

## Gas distribution

**FROM PAGE 16**  
turn for the worse by 2010. As such, the ongoing projects in the north and the southwest would be of no use unless the production of gas is increased, he added.

Out of the expected production increase of 65 mcmcf (million cubic feet per day) gas by this December, 20 mcmcf would be reserved for Chittagong, he said adding that the present demand of Pashchimanchal Gas Company Ltd (PGCL) that serves Bogra, Pabna and Sirajganj could not even be met with the remaining 45 mcmcf gas, let alone meeting the demands of the entire north.

According to Petrobangla officials, the present demand for gas cannot be met before 2011 and the rising demands will make it even more difficult for the government to supply gas for the ongoing projects.

Demand for gas in March last year was 15 lakh mcmcf and in the same month this year, the demand rose to 18 lakh mcmcf, said the Petrobangla chief.

Even if the demand increases by 1.5 lakh mcmcf a year, there is no possibility of meeting the demand and therefore the new projects are likely to remain unutilised, said the officials at Petrobangla.

Considering this scenario, gas supply in Rajshahi city will not be possible in June next year when the installation of 280 kilometres pipeline is set to be completed under the Tk 112 crore Rajshahi City Gas Distribution Project, the Petrobangla chairman said.

Same fate awaits two other projects -- the Tk 628.70-crore Jamuna-Bheramara Project and the Tk 161.52-crore Hatikmural-Banpara-Rajshahi Project, he said.

## Convicts

**FROM PAGE 1**  
He said 16,997 of them were arrested with outstanding warrants against them, 153 under Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act and 7,521 in connection with other cases including murder and rape.

The home adviser said only 191 people were arrested under the Emergency Power Rules.

Matin said special operations have been launched to improve law and order situation and remove fear from people's mind.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad was present at the briefing among others.

## Khaleda

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Home Adviser Maj Gen (ret) MA Matin told a press conference they have received the application and the government would decide about it.

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (ret) Ghulam Quader also told the reporters the government will consider the matter after receiving the application.

Earlier on Saturday, Zubaida and Zayma filed the same petition with the Chief Adviser's Office.

In the application, Zubaida, a physician by profession, says her husband needs specialised orthopaedic surgical correction that is not available in the country.

Sharmila Rahman, wife of Khaleda's younger son, had earlier submitted an application to the interim administration for sending her husband abroad on medical ground.

Koko has various medical complications and is under treatment since his arrest in September last year.

Tarique, senior BNP joint secretary general arrested on March 8 last year, faces a series of graft cases. He is receiving treatment at Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

The Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and 45 teachers of Bangladesh Open University in a separate statement yesterday also demanded release of Khaleda and her sons.

Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal in a press conference made an 11-point demand including the release of Khaleda and her sons.

ment.

A BNP government assumed power in 1991 and dissolved the upazila system. The Supreme Court in a judgment in 1992 directed the government to hold elections to upazila parishads within six months, but the BNP government did not hold the polls during its tenure.

Assuming power through the 1996 general elections, Awami League passed the Upazila Parishad Act in 1998.

The immediate past BNP-led alliance government, which came to power through the 2001 general election, moved for holding the upazila elections and formed a cabinet committee for the purpose. But the committee members failed to reach a consensus on holding the polls.

All those governments meanwhile sought extension of time on many occasions from the Supreme Court to comply with its directives for holding the polls.

The current caretaker government recently moved for holding the upazila elections and assured the EC of the return of its power to announce the poll schedules for over 450 upazila parishads.

## Nepal

**FROM PAGE 16**  
second largest party in the constitutional assembly, has laid down a set of preconditions that the ex-rebels must meet before it will back them in government.

"They have to give back the land and property they seized during the conflict," senior Nepali Congress official Arjun Narsingh Khatri Chettri told AFP.

The Maoists' feared youth wing -- who face constant accusations of using mafia-like tactics -- "are an organised group of goons who have been creating anarchy," and must be disbanded, the politician said.

Also, the fate of the 20,000 former Maoist guerrillas who are in United Nations-monitored camps as part of the peace pact needs to be resolved, he said.

The issue of the Maoist weapons and the integration of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) is a serious problem and they have not come up with any solutions," said the Congress politician.

These conditions underscore the point that many in Nepal believe the ex-guerrillas have yet to adjust to being a mainstream political party, he said.

"We do not have any wish to remain in government, but the reason for the deadlock is there because they have not respected the norms of a multi-party democratic structure."

The result is that with the king ousted, Nepal is drifting along with an interim constitution, interim head of state and interim government.

Meanwhile, some former Maoists are hanging onto their guns until the situation clears.

Veteran democracy activist Devendra Raj Pandey said that after the excitement of the peace pact and the sacking of an unpopular, authoritarian king, the political situation has turned into a rather depressing spat.

"We have had historic elections, and a republic declaration, but we are still stuck in traditional power politics," said Pandey, who heads the Civil Movement for Peace and Democracy.

"The most discouraging part of this whole process is that the political parties, including the Maoists, have not changed, even though the country has experienced massive upheaval," he said.

"I see difficulties in the days ahead."

## Extortion case

**FROM PAGE 1**  
statement of the complainant, ordered the case to be sent to the Special Court-5 for quick disposal.

The case did not have a schedule hearing today.

On Thursday, the prosecution submitted a petition for fixing a date for hearing on the case but the court did not pass any order on the matter.

Special Public Prosecutor Sahidul Islam Sardar submitted a petition to the court, after getting a certified copy of the Supreme Court (SC) judgment, saying that the SC cleared the legal bar to continue the trial proceedings. He prayed for fixing a new date for hearing on the case.

When asked about the transfer order, Sardar told The Daily Star that he heard about the transfer of the case but he did not know why the trial court transferred it to another court for trial.

The case, filed by Azam J Chowdhury, was earlier quashed by the High Court (HC) following a writ petition submitted by Hasina's lawyers challenging the legality of the case that was brought under the Emergency Power Rules, 2007 (EPR).

The SC on May 8 stayed the HC order and cleared way for the trial to continue under the EPR.

Eastcoast Trading Pvt Ltd Managing Director Azam J Chowdhury on June 13, 2007 filed the case against Hasina and her cousin former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim in connection with extorting Tk 2.99 crore from him in exchange for the contract of setting up the Shariatganj Power Plant in Narayanganj.

On July 16, 2007, the home ministry directed the police to bring the case under the EPR.

Investigation officer of the case Obaidul Haque on July 24 indicted Hasina, Rehana and Selim for extortion. He did not include the relevant sections of the EPR while indicting.

Following Hasina's writ filed on July 29 last year, an HC bench of Justice Nayeem and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury issued a rule upon the caretaker government asking it to reply as to why its approval for bringing the case under EPR should not be declared illegal.

After hearing the state, the HC on February 6 quashed the case saying that the proceedings already taken and under process were without lawful authority.

## 2 Huji cadres

**FROM PAGE 1**  
close aide to Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) chief Mufti Hannan, who led the August 21 blasts on an Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka and Nazrul Islam Gharani, son of Mujibur Rahman Gharani from Shimulilla village in Debbhata upazila.

According to the prosecution, based on information from Zandal's confessions members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Nazrul Islam Gharani from Nalta bazar in Kaliganj upazila.

His confession led to Rab discovering the 44 grenades of Arges brand hidden in a pond in Shimulilla village under Debbhata upazila on February 15.

The same day, sub-inspector (SI) Tanqul Islam of Rab-6 Khulna filed a case with Debbhata police station accusing Moim Uddin alias Abu Zandal and Nazrul Islam for possession of the grenades.

On March 17 the investigation officer (IO) of the case, Inspector Lokman Hakim who is also the officer in charge (OC) of Debbhata police station, submitted the charge sheet against both the accused before the chief judicial magistrate's court in Sakthira.

Earlier on May 29, the court framed charges against the two and the trial began on June 4.

Judge Ashish Ranjan Das of the District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict after examining all records and deposition of 16 witnesses.

Public prosecutor (PP) Tapan Kumar Chakraborty conducted the case for the state while advocate Sheikh Nizam Uddin defended the accused.

Out of the 44 grenades seized from Shimulilla village, 41 are identical to the Arges grenades that were exploded in the August 21 attack on an Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka in 2004, Rab sources said.

## Local govt

**FROM PAGE 1**  
missions from respective law enforcement authorities at least 24 hours prior to scheduled campaign events, informing the authorities about the time and venue.

In a bid to compel the candidates to follow the election campaign laws, the EC will also empower itself with the authority to cancel candidatures in cases of violations of the code of conduct and other irregularities during the polls.

The code of conduct will also restrict pasting of campaign posters and scrawling of campaign graffiti on walls.

Along with the code of conduct for candidates in city corporation and municipality elections, the EC will also promulgate election rules for the two local government bodies, as the law ministry has no objection to the proposals made by the commission, EC sources said.

The new election rules for the two local government bodies will also empower the personnel of defence forces and police, engaged in election duties, to arrest anybody without warrant on suspicion of plotting to violate the laws, the sources said.

The EC sent the proposed code of conduct and election rules to the law ministry for vetting last month, and the ministry yesterday sent those back to the commission without bringing any change to the proposals, the sources said.

Senior officials of the EC Secretariat said the commission may now promulgate the code of conduct and the election rules any time since it has the authority to do so.

On promulgating the rules, the EC will announce the election schedule for the two tiers of the local government system by June 20 for holding the polls in July to city corporations of Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet, and to nine municipalities.

The EC on Wednesday at a meeting with the chief adviser asked his government to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the local government polls either by lifting or by relaxing the state of emergency in respective areas.

## ACC sues

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Ministry, the ministry's former accountant Abdul Latif, Police Inspector Rezaul Karim and office assistant Hafizul Islam of Razarbagh Telecom.

Of the accused, Abdul Latif was arrested and is in jail custody while Anwar Hossain is out on bail. The others are absconding since the case was filed.

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against the fugitives and the order to attach their properties.

According to the prosecution, accountant Abdul Latif with the assistance of the others named, misappropriated Tk 1 cr 45 thousand from the home ministry's accounts department with the help of forged documents that was disclosed on an audit report.

When the assistant accountant of the ministry Golam Shamsul Haider came to know about the misappropriation and demanded to know details of it from Latif, Latif and the others planned to kill Haider.

They killed the victim on September 6, 2006.

On March 23 last year, Police Inspector Shahnur filed the case against Abdul Latif and others with Paltan Police Station for committing the offences.

The other case relating to Golam Haider's murder is now under investigation.

## Sharif's party

**FROM PAGE 16**  
himself said that the people wanted Musharraf's ouster from the Presidency.

"The people's view is that the individual against whom they had given a verdict in the February 18 general election is still sitting in the Presidency and Army House. It is now the parliament's job to remove him," Abbas said.

PML-N chief Sharif has been insisting on Musharraf's removal since the President's supporters were routed in the general election. Sharif, who was ousted as prime minister in a military coup led by Musharraf in 1999, has said the former military strongman should also be held accountable for his actions over the past eight-and-half years.

The PPP has so far held back from acting on the PML-N's demand for the impeachment of Musharraf, saying the ruling coalition does not have the two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament that is required for such a move.

While the PPP-led coalition has a two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament, the opposition PML-Q has a slender majority in the Senate or upper house.

Meanwhile Pakistan's main ruling party said Saturday it will reinstate judges ousted by President Pervez Musharraf only after it has overcome legal obstacles following a massive rally calling for their restoration.

Reinstating the judges could hasten the political demise of Musharraf, a stalwart US ally who seized power in a 1999 coup. Failure to do so could sink the new coalition government, triggering turmoil in a country already threatened by economic woes and Islamic militants.

"We will restore the judges, but according to the law," said Rehman Malik, a leading figure in the party of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. "Nothing will be done which could create another constitutional crisis."

Lawyers called the protest because the 11-week-old ruling coalition has failed to keep a promise to quickly reinstate the justices, who were ousted by Musharraf when he imposed emergency rule last year.

Tens of thousands took part in a