

GLOBAL RECESSION

Tk 3,424cr stimulus plan rolled out

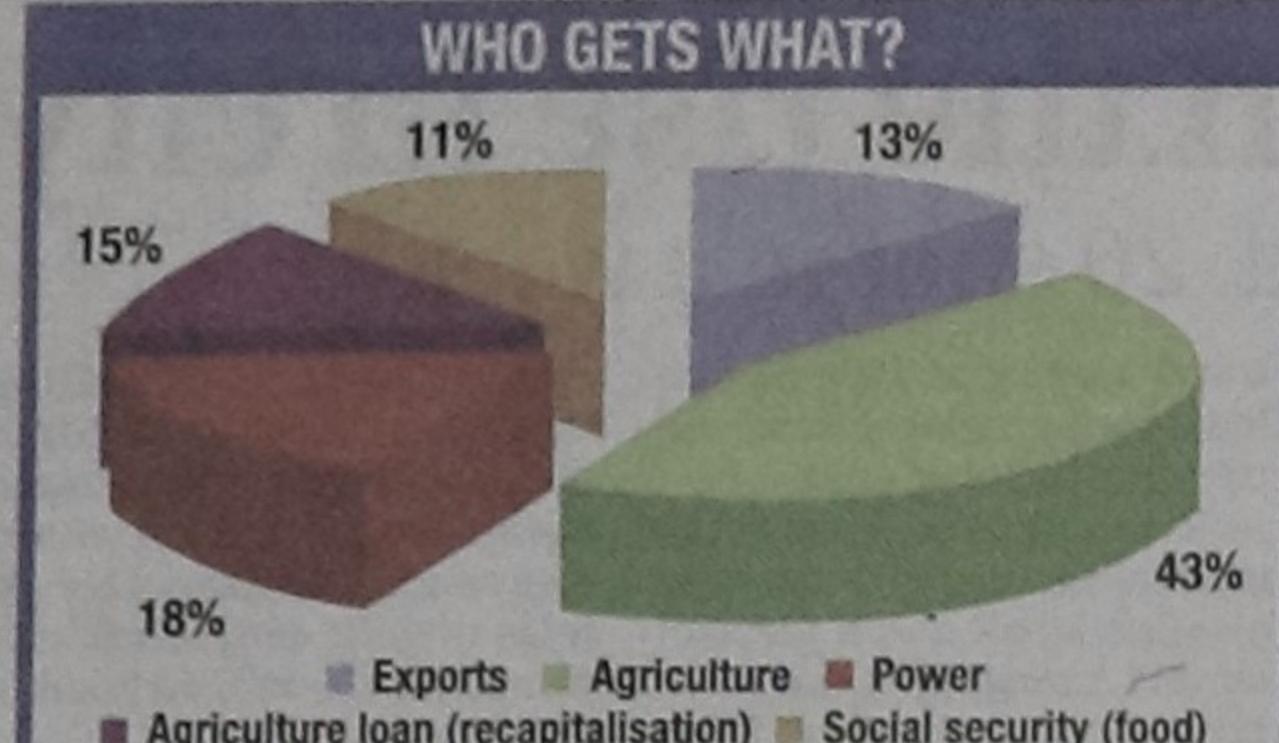
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced a Tk 3,424 crore stimulus package to cushion the blow of global economic downturn.

The fund meant to be used over the last quarter of the current fiscal year includes Tk 450 crore in cash subsidies for the export industries already hit by the recession.

Unveiling the plan at a press conference, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said it may not satisfy all as only selected sectors will receive cash incentives.

However, he stressed, those who are not getting the cash



benefits will receive a bundle of policy supports no less valuable.

Of the measures, some will be implemented on an urgent basis during the last three months of this fiscal year and

the others in 2009-10.

In April-June period, cash assistance for export of jute goods, leather and leather goods, and frozen foods will be increased by 2.5 percentage

points.

To foot the bill for the package, an additional Tk 3,424 crore will be allocated in the revised budget for the current fiscal year.

Of the amount, Tk 450 crore will be spent on cash subsidies to exporters, Tk 1,500 crore on agriculture, Tk 600 crore on power sector, Tk 500 crore on agriculture loans and Tk 374 crore on social security.

With this, the budgetary allocations will mount up to Tk 14,554 crore, from Tk 11,130 crore originally.

Prime Minister's Finance and Planning Adviser Dr Mashirul Rahman, Bangladesh

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PHOTO: STAR

The number of patients being admitted to the ICDDR,B hospital with diarrhoea is steadily rising as the scarcity of pure drinking water and soaring temperature continue in the city. Over 700 people were admitted yesterday.

PM goes to Saudi Arabia today

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and PORIMOL PALMA

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Saudi Arabia will focus on crucial issues that include lifting of restrictions on recruiting of Bangladeshi workers there and seeking Saudi support in trying war criminals.

Hasina will also talk bilateral trade and investment with the Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

She is leaving for the Kingdom tonight with a 35-member delegation that includes Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, cousin Sheikh

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE NSI officer held for hiring trucks Transport agents identify him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A National Security Intelligence (NSI) field officer was arrested and placed on a two-day remand yesterday for allegedly hiring the 10 trucks that were supposed to carry the arms and ammunition seized at the CUFL jetties.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) former managing director (MD) Mohsin Talukder was placed on a two-day fresh remand and investigators got the permission to interrogate CUFL former general manager (GM) Enamul Haq at the jail gate in connection with the arms haul.

Ten truckloads of firearms and ammunition were seized at the CUFL jetties in the early hours of April 02, 2004 and two cases were filed in this connection later on.

Sources said arrested NSI field officer Akbar Hossain Khan, now serving as a field officer at NSI Gulshan circle, reportedly

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WAR CRIME TRIAL Investigating agency to be formed today

UNB, Dhaka

Investigating Agency to inquire into the war crimes committed during the Bangladesh Liberation War will be constituted today, State Minister for Law Md Quamrul Islam said yesterday.

"Discussions are continuing. We will disclose the names of members of investigating agency tomorrow (Monday)," he said emerging from the inter-ministerial meeting held at the law ministry.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Affairs Tanzim

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BCL troubles remain as major irritant

RAKIB AHAMMED and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

The reputation of Awami League-led grand alliance government was besmirched, in the first 100 days of its rule, mostly by the ruling party's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The name of the legendary student organisation, which once had played a key role in the movement for the country's liberation, became synonymous to trouble and embarrassment for Awami League (AL) during its 100 days in power, shadowed by more than 50 violent clashes in educational institutions involving BCL.

The embarrassment became so unbearable that Prime Minister also AL President Sheikh Hasina chose to resign from the post of BCL's organisational leader, in order to distance

herself from the sad mayhem of the young students, for whom she ostensibly dreamt the 'digital' dream.

Since the AL-led grand alliance won the December 29, 2008 parliamentary election with a historic landslide victory, BCL activists got themselves busy with having violent intra and inter organisation clashes; beating, maiming and chasing out of dorms and campuses of its rival leaders and activists

of pro-BNP Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Jamaat, Islami Chhatra Shibir over establishing hegemony on educational institutions.

The intra-BCL clashes also had no less to boast about, with the level of violence rivaling the clashes with the real rivals.

Two student leaders were killed, several

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Diarrhoea situation worsens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diarrhoea outbreak has taken a serious turn in the capital as the number of patients suffering from the waterborne disease continues to increase.

Some 728 patients were admitted yesterday to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), doctors said in the evening. Three of them were brought dead to the hospital.

Dr Azzarul Islam Khan, head of short stay unit of ICDDR,B said normally some 250 to 300 diarrhoea patients seek admission to the hospital.

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JS body questions process of buying car for minister

Ex-communications secy summoned

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday raised questions about the propriety of a tender invitation for buying a luxury automobile for official use by Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain.

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications Ministry also summoned the former communication secretary who allegedly okayed the invitation of the tender mentioning the minister's name.

Incumbent Communications Secretary Ali Kabir, who was present in the meeting held in the parliament building, also deemed the tender invitation as 'wrong'.

"We've asked the former communications secretary to be

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PILKHANA CARNAGE Investigators find 60 more BDR jawans involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty more Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel are likely to be indicted for their alleged involvement in the February 25-26 carnage in the BDR headquarters.

An official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) tasked with the investigation said the BDR personnel are likely to be shown arrested in the mutiny case today.

Seeking anonymity, the CID official said, "On the basis of our own intelligence and after scrutiny of the video footages, we identified around

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VICTIMS OF JMB TORTURE MP's men finally return all cheques

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Local Awami League (AL) lawmaker's men in Bagmara have returned all the cheques they took away from the victims of atrocities committed by Bangla Bhai-led gangs.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and Development) Satyendra Kumar Sarker told reporters yesterday that the victims had all the cheques with them.

Following government directives, the Rajshahi administration yesterday launched an investigation into the allegations against Enamul's men who reportedly took away cheques worth Tk 19 lakh granted by the prime minister for the victims.

Sarker, also the investigation officer, quizzed 20 people, including 18 victims whom the local lawmaker's men took to the Bagmara UNO's office.

He told journalists that no 'strong evidence' had been found to prove the allegations.

"We shall fax the investigation report to the authorities concerned in Dhaka by tonight," Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan,

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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of all concerned that Bangladesh Bank has taken out **The Premier Bank Ltd.** from Early Warning System (EWS) with effect from April 19, 2009.

Sd/-

Dated: April 19, 2009
Dhaka

Syed Ahsan Habib, FCMA
Company Secretary

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