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## Tk 10cr fund okayed for war trial

Prosecution, tribunal after budget passed

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The prosecutors and members of tribunal for the trial of war criminals are likely to be appointed next month after the passage of the budget in parliament, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed.

Talking to The Daily Star last night after the finance minister's budget speech, the law minister also said that the cabinet

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## TCB to open fair-price shops of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is expected to start selling edible oil, pulse, sugar and onions from fair-price outlets of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) early 2009-10 fiscal year to keep prices of essentials stable.

"Our government is seriously considering the strengthening of TCB to keep prices of essential commodities stable," said Finance Minister AMA Muhith in his budget speech.

The strengthening of TCB will help check any unusual surge in the prices of essentials at time when confidence on the private-sector traders is in question.

Referring to the election

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## Middleclass still out of comfort zone

PINAKI ROY

Watching television in the afternoon is rare for Abidur Rahman. But keen to know what the new budget holds for a middle class family like his, he opted to upset his daily routine yesterday.

He returned from work early and tuned in to hear Finance Minister AMA Muhith's speech.

Last year's budget by the caretaker government was a letdown. It was anything but good news for the middle-class families struggling to make ends meet with prices of essentials already spiralled out of reach.

Things are however different this year and so are expectations. After a two-year break, an elected government is rolling out the country's annual financial plan.

A private firm employee and breadwinner in a four-member family, Abidur was eager to know what this democratic government is going to do for the millions of people in middle income brackets.

But as far as he could make out, he found no measures tailored to suit the needs of the mid-

dle classes tired of tightening their belt.

Though prices of some essentials have come down after the AL-led grand alliance took office in January, life for the downscale urbanites is still far from comfortable.

Moreover, the global economic downturn is poised to make matters worse.

Hope that the new budget would take some pressure off them was pretty much gone with Muhith's speech.

Abidur's musing over the budgetary impact on his purse was interrupted by his wife Shahana's query if he knew the price of mosquito coils was going up.

He replied not only the price of containing mosquito menace, that of many a daily necessity will increase.

As he thought he would better read tomorrow's newspapers to have a clear idea of what this budget might mean to him, it struck him that maybe the price of newspaper too will increase as the budget proposes to up the import duties on newsprint.

The sight of his son engrossed in doing

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## Coming up next dist-level budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to introduce district-level budget from 2010-11 fiscal year to ensure transparency in public expenditures and accountability in implementation of the projects, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"I firmly believe there will be an epoch-making change in the development initiatives if budget preparations and implementations at district level work as planned," he said while giving his budget speech

in parliament.

The minister said as an initial step they want to launch a district budget for one district in each division through partial modification and improvement in the classification structure and a few changes in the development project pro-forma.

"I hope I will be able to present a district-level budget in the budget for 2010-11 fiscal year," he said.

Muhith added it could not be said how much resources

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## More taxpayers, but no tax hike

Tax net to be broadened up to upazila; survey in elite areas proposed to find tax prospect

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The government wants to boost earnings by expanding the tax net through surveys to identify new taxpayers and better tax collection, not by increasing taxes.

To broaden the tax net up to upazila level and identify new taxpayers, Finance Minister AMA Muhith proposed conducting surveys in Uttara, Nikunja, Banasree, Bashundhara-Baridhara Project Area, Savar, Dohar, Nawabganj, Keraniganj of Dhaka, Louhajang of Munshiganj, Patia, Sitakunda, Satkania, Hathajari,

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## 'Free Buriganga' drive from next week

Demolition on Shitalakhya, Turag continues

TAWFIQUE ALI, back from Narayanganj

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) will start eviction drive against the encroachers of river Buriganga next week while the drive along river Turag on the Tongi side ended on its ninth day yesterday.

Besides, the eviction drive conducted jointly by BIWTA and Narayanganj district administration continued yesterday in Shitalakhya for the third consecutive day.

"Though we have stopped eviction from Turag for the time being, it will continue in other rivers surrounding Dhaka till the encroachers are evicted fully," said BIWTA Chairman Md Abdul Mannan Howlader.

In Narayanganj, demolition works continued to knock down unfinished parts of three

multi-storey buildings built illegally on river Shitalakhya near Tanbazar sub-police station.

A seven-storey garment factory owned by Shahnewaz, a six-storey garment factory and a six-storey residential building owned by former municipality commissioner Md Jahangir were demolished partially in the last three days during the drive. These were heavily built structures and it takes time to demolish, officials said.

Though a five-storey garment factory owned by Khandker Sharif Uddin has been identified as built illegally grabbing 12 feet of Shitalakhya river, authorities are yet to knock it down.

Executive magistrate Abul Kashem said the owner complained of anomaly in the survey of

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## Pay rise for govt staff from July

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Government employees will be receiving increased salary and bonus from next month, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said in his budget speech.

"I am pleased to inform that the Pay Commission appointed by the caretaker government has recently submitted its report with recommendations to make the pay structure of government officials consistent with

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## Muhith lauds caretaker govt's role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday praised the last caretaker government for its role in holding a free and fair national election.

They earned appreciation from all quarters for creating a congenial atmosphere for restoration of democracy and facilitating smooth transfer of power to elected representatives, Muhith said in his

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## Double-digit GDP growth by 2017

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has set a target of achieving a 10 percent growth in GDP by 2017 in line with the ruling Awami League's election manifesto.

Referring to pre-election pledges, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government will strive to ensure 8 percent growth by 2013.

Besides, the double-digit growth aimed to be clocked by 2017 will be sustained until 2021.

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Prayer Timing		
June 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Three more public universities under education plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promised more teachers, three more public universities, and one technical institute in every upazila as part of a massive injection of funds into the education and technology sector in the budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 (FY10).

Finance Minister AMA Muhith proposed Tk 14,387 crore for the education and technology sector, with Tk 6,611 crore for Mass and Primary Education ministry, Tk 7,395 crore for the Education ministry and Tk 381 crore for the Science, Information and Communication Technology ministry.

As part of government efforts to narrow regional disparity in higher education, Muhith announced plans to establish a university each in Barisal, Rangamati and Gopalganj.

"In response to increasing demand for diversified and improved quality of higher education and proper management of Universities, the Government has been preparing Private University Act, 2009," he said in his speech.

The minister also declared the government's commitment to ensure 100 percent enrolment at the primary level by 2010 and to prevent dropouts.

He said the budget also includes a provision to construct 1500 new primary schools in less-served areas and reconstructing 370 primary schools which were destroyed or damaged by flood

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**OnlinePoll**

Who is to be blamed for Bangladesh's loss to Ireland in the ICC World T20?

☐ Captain (48.3%)  
☐ Team (36.3%)  
☐ Management (15.4%)

Total votes: 677

**TODAY'S POLL**

Are you satisfied with the overall budget proposed by the Finance Minister?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## Meena Media Award 2009

Meena Media Award was introduced in 2005 by UNICEF to recognize outstanding work on Child Rights in print and broadcast media. News, articles, features and television programmes, that investigate and explore children's issues to improve the lives of children in Bangladesh, or provide healthy entertainment for children, and were published, produced and broadcast in Bangladesh, are eligible to compete for the award.

• Entries are invited from Bangladeshi citizens in two age groups: a) Young (18 yrs and under) and b) Regular (above 18 yrs of age) in the following categories:

- (1) Print Media Reports (news reports, features, post editorials);
- (2) Print Media Creatives (articles, stories, poems);
- (3) Television Reports (news reports, interview, feature, documentaries);
- (4) Television Creatives (programmes other than news, e.g. short film, plays, songs, skits etc.)

• Entries may include journalistic or creative pieces that have been published in newspapers and periodicals or was shown on Television, in either Bangla or in English, between July 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009. Books are not eligible for entry.

• Published material must be at least 300 words, and broadcast material must be at least 1 minute long.

• Two copies of actual publication or broadcast material in DVD must be submitted.

• Entries must include a cover letter, stating full name, age, address, and phone numbers of the entrant, the type of entry, and a synopsis (not more than two paragraphs).

• A panel of eminent judges will evaluate each submission individually. Winners will be selected on the basis of the recommendation from the panel of judges.

• Only winners will be contacted by October 2009 and subsequently invited to an award ceremony.

• The following prizes will be awarded in each of the above categories in both age groups, subject to receiving sufficient number of eligible entries:

**First Prize:** A crest, a certificate and Tk. 50,000

**Second Prize:** A crest, a certificate and Tk. 25,000

**Third Prize:** A crest, a certificate and Tk. 15,000

• One individual, agency or group may submit upto 5 entries, but will be considered for one award only.

• UNICEF Staff and dependents are not eligible to compete. Entrants who are affiliated with any UNICEF supported project must clearly mention so in their entry. In such event concerned staff will not partake in the panel of judges.

• UNICEF reserves the right to cancel the awards or any category thereof, because of insufficient entries or any other compelling reason.

• Solicitation, plagiarism, or use of any unfair means will lead to disqualification of an entry or revocation of a prize.

• Young people living in remote and hard to reach areas of Bangladesh, particularly those who are underprivileged and marginalized will receive special consideration.

Deadline: All entries must be received on or before July 16, 2009 at the following address:

Meena Media Award  
Communication & Information Section, UNICEF Bangladesh  
BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka 1000

unite for children

unicef