



LIKE LONDON, BANGLADESH CAN BE BUILT ON GRADE 500 STEEL

BSRM Xtreme
the next generation steel

"Offers You Can't Resist".

PHILIPS NOW 37" LCD BDT. 119,500

Installation + UPS FREE

Drop into your nearest Transcom Digital Showroom and get your LCD TV Now!

Exclusively Available at

TRANSCOM

DIGITAL

Your Trusted Electronics Retailer

For more information: 8855366-9, 91712 885363

Budget bold, challenging

Financing, implementation major challenges, says MCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2009-10 is a "bold and challenging one" as the government will face up to financing and implementing the budget astutely, said Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday.

"Financing and implementing the budget will be the two major challenges," the chamber said in a written reaction to the budget.

It also came down on the government for keeping the provision of whitening undisclosed income and that for three years.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith presented a Tk 1,13,819 crore budget to the

nation on Thursday.

The budget's net outlay is to be financed by 56.2 percent from tax revenue, 13.6 percent from non-tax revenue, 12.1 percent from foreign loans and grants, leaving the gap to be met from domestic sources, of which borrowing from banking system will be the main component.

"The projected borrowing will be significantly higher compared to the previous year's budget," the MCCI said.

The government's borrowings from banking sector were Tk 4,420 crore in FY 2006-07, Tk 10,960 crore in FY 2007-08 and Tk 10,698 crore in FY 2008-09.

"There must be a cap on the government's borrowings from banks, and

instead, it should seek a fair share of the financial package due to be made available to the developing countries in pursuance of the decision taken at the G20 summit recently," the MCCI said.

The chamber also expressed disappointment as income tax rates for banks, financial institutions and insurance companies are still discriminatory. "Their tax rate should be reduced gradually," it said.

The allocation of Tk 4,278 crore for energy and power sector is inadequate and is less than that of the previous year in absolute terms, the chamber said, adding, "Thus, it does not address the critical power needs of the country."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



US Asst Secy of State Blake due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert O Blake will arrive in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

PROPOSED BUDGET

Mixed reactions among chambers, trade bodies

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Business leaders yesterday hailed the government's concept of the public private partnership (PPP) initiative in the budget to implement different projects in infrastructure, health and education sectors.

They, however, gave mixed reactions over whitening of black money in the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009-10.

The trade body leaders also expressed their concern over the possible price rise of basic commodities in local markets due to government's laxity in monitoring the market.

Syed Earshad Ahmed, president of American Chamber of Commerce in

Bangladesh (AmCham) said, "I personally welcome the concept of public private partnership (PPP) as it is a new element in our national budget."

He welcomed the government's decision of legalising black money but its scope in the non-productive sector like real estate sector will not yield any positive result as it might create problems in cash flow.

"Overall it is a good budget but its implementation would be a big challenge for the government," Ahmed continued.

The government may face problem in tax collection, as the target is ambitious to some extent, he said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Heavy rain inundates city roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several parts of the capital went under ankle- to knee-deep water for some hours due to heavy rain yesterday evening, causing immense suffering to the city dwellers.

Residents said the areas including Pallabi, Mirpur Section-10, Kazipara and Shewrapara turned water logged during the rain.

An official of Met office said they recorded 30mm rainfall between 6:00 pm and 7:20 pm in the capital.

The suffering of the commuters worsened at some places during and after rain, as normal vehicular movement was interrupted due to the ongoing road digging in the city.

"I had to cross almost knee-deep water to go to my house at Mirpur," said Azad, a resident of the area.

The area goes under ankle- to knee-deep water even after half an hour of rain but it takes minimum three hours to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

This footbridge over the intersection in front of Jagannath University was built in 1995 but has hardly been ever used by pedestrians who prefer the streets instead.

Plan to appoint 13 judges to SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government will appoint at least three judges to the Appellate Division and 10 judges to the High Court (HC) Division of the Supreme Court (SC) by June this year as a number of judges of both the divisions will retire this year and next year.

The present government appointed 11 judges to the HC Division and two judges to the Appellate Division.

There are seven judges for the Appellate Division and 74 for the HC Division at present, sources said.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed on May 19 told The Daily Star that his ministry had already started the process of appointing some new judges to the Appellate Division and the HC Division of the apex court.

The office rooms in the SC building and other logistic supports for the new judges will have to be ensured in consultation with the Chief Justice before their recruitments, he said.

The process of recruitment of judges might be completed by the end of June, he added.

The minister also said the government is sincere in appointing new judges to the SC to ensure fair dispensation of justice and also to reduce the huge backlog of cases at this court.

Some judges of the HC Division have already retired this year and so will some more of the Appellate and HC Divisions this year and next year, he added.

Sources said Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin would retire on December 23 this year.

Besides four judges of the Appellate Division -- justices Md Tafazzal Islam, Md Joyunul Abedin, MA Matin and Md Abdul Aziz will also retire by the end of next year.

Two judges of the HC -- justices MA Rashid and Khadedmul Islam Chowdhury have retired this year and two judges of the HC

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

India to phase out army presence in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

India is to phase out the controversial presence of large numbers of its troops in towns across the Muslim-majority Kashmir region, the country's home minister announced yesterday.

Such a move would be the first time the armed forces have been pulled out of urban areas in the disputed region since an insurgency against Indian rule broke out in 1989.

The announcement also comes amid sustained protests over last month's suspected rape and murder of two local Muslim women, allegedly by members of the Indian security forces.

Nor'wester kills one in Kishoreganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A child was killed, ten were injured and a trail of destruction to several hundred dwelling houses, standing crops and trees in a nor'wester that lashed Boulai union in sadar upazila of the district on Thursday night.

Union parishad chairman Aowlad Hossain said Sajon, 4, daughter of rickshaw puller Abdur Rashid of Dakkhin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

SWINE FLU PANDEMIC

People urged not to panic over WHO declaration

AFP, Sydney

Nations around the world said they were ready to combat the spread of the swine flu virus yesterday, urging people not to panic after the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic.

WHO officials stressed that the designation of a "moderate" pandemic did not mean the number of deaths from the

A(H1N1) influenza virus -- currently at 144 worldwide -- would spike, and did not recommend closing any borders.

But officials around the world called for caution, saying preventative measures and vigilance would be the best way to halt the spread of the virus, which has already infected nearly 29,000 people in 74 countries.

"I think in terms of pre-

paredness, we're okay," Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said Friday, after his government opted not to raise the national flu alert level.

"Influenza, in any given year, can be a problem in any community. This is a strong form of influenza and we need to just be very careful and we're doing that on a daily basis."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Outlaw held with firearms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A team of Jhenidah Rab-6 arrested a cadre of Purba Banglar Communist Party Janajuddha faction and recovered two firearms and three bullets from his possession during a drive at Baparipara yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Ibrahim Khalil, 35, son of Tayeb Ali of Paschim Krishnapur village under Jhenidah sadar upazila.

Rab commander Major Tarique said acting on a tip-off,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

OnlinePoll ✓

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

☐ Yes (51.5%)
☐ No (41.0%)
☐ No Comment (7.5%)

Total votes: 371

TODAY'S POLL

Today's Poll

Do you support the provision of legalising undisclosed money as proposed in the budget for 2009-10?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing		
June 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

BSF kills 2 in Dinajpur, Satkhira

STAR REPORT

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead two Bangladeshi cattle traders, one each at Ghasuria border of Birampur upazila in Dinajpur district and Rudrapur border of Kalaroa in Satkhira district early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mujibur Rahman, 30, son of Mohirul Islam of Dakshin Daudpur village of Birampur upazila and Saidur Rahman, 30, son of Zakaria Mondal of Chandanpur village in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira.

BDR sources said BSF troops of Bhimpur camp opened fire on a group of cattle traders while they were entering into Bangladesh from India along with cattle at about 5:00 am, killing Mujibur on the spot.

BDR protested the killing through a letter to the BSF and demanded return of the body,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Story of a New Dawn

AkteL - The Daily Star englishinschools has embarked on a voyage to ensure a brighter future for the students across Bangladesh in their own school-premise and prepare themselves for a world of possibilities waiting for them.

Helping the torch bearers

Correct English learning will empower the students with the tool of leading the nation a step forward and ensure us a brighter tomorrow.

Rising high with a flawless flight

3 free copies of The Daily Star, 5 days a week, along with special weekly page dedicated to English learning will be provided along with a website with lessons and resources. Interactive programmes, teachers' competitions, quality lesson tests and other exciting events will take place as well.

Reaching for the new horizon

To encourage English learning, effective facilities will reach the students of 1000 schools in 64 districts all over the country starting with 9 inaugural events at Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet.

* Today's inaugural event is at Mymensingh.

Let's meet opportunities as we step ahead.



The Daily Star
Your Right To Know

