

DHAKA CITY CORPORATION

Tk 1411.58cr budget to be announced today

HELEMUL ALAM

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will announce a Tk 1411.58 crore budget today for the fiscal year 2009-10.

The amount is Tk 402.17 crore higher than the original budget and Tk 594.26 crore higher than the revised budget of 2008-09 fiscal year.

This will be the eighth budget of Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who is likely to repeat previous year's pledge of not raising holding tax or imposing any new tax on city people, said an official of the corporation.

He said the revenue collection mechanism would be strengthened to collect funds to finance the development programmes intended to make the city life comfortable.

A general meeting with the ward commissioners will be held at 10:00am today, two hours before the budget placement seeking their suggestions, said a ward commis-

sioner.

However, according to some commissioners the meeting is nothing but part of the formalities as it will be held just before the budget placement and after completing all the process.

The DCC has set a target of revenue earning worth Tk 603.80 crore which was Tk 527.51 crore in 2008-09.

The corporation earns its income from different taxes and fees including holding, lighting, conservancy, trade license, advertisement, road digging, rickshaw license, market and community centres.

The DCC also expects to receive an government grant, foreign finance and private sector investment an amount of Tk 475.74 crore which is Tk 232.84 crore higher than the current fiscal, said the official.

The corporation is going to set an expenditure target of Tk 176.58 crore for the next fiscal year which was Tk

1009.41 crore in the current fiscal.

Out of Tk 1276.58 crore, it has earmarked Tk 1021 crore for development activities which was Tk 692.90 in the current fiscal.

The corporation has set a target of Tk 50 crore from bazar selam, Tk 45 crore from trade license, Tk 2.50 crore from rickshaw license fees, Tk 15 crore from advertisements, Tk 15 crore from bus/truck terminals, Tk 18 crore from cattle markets, Tk 5 crore from the lease of toilets, ghats, Tk 53 crore from road digging fees, Tk 10 crore from equipment rents, Tk 4.50 crore from children parks, Tk 3 crore as rent from community centres, Tk 1.50 crore from graveyard and crematory and Tk 58 crore as land handover tax.

Of the remaining amount, Tk 100 crore is expected to come as block allocation and another Tk 100 crore as special allocation from the government while Tk 7 crore from other sources.

expects Tk 280 crore from this sector alone against the total expected revenue earning of Tk 603.80 crore in the next fiscal year.

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Other major sectors of expenditure are Tk 55 crore for electricity, fuel and water, Tk 20 crore for maintenance and repairing, Tk 1.90 crore for festival and hospitality and Tk 3 crore for advertisement.

Holding tax is the single biggest source of revenue earning and the corporation

Asst judge's house looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals stormed the house of an assistant judge in the city's Mohammadpur area and took away around Tk 9,000 and a mobile set yesterday.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Bhuiyan Mahbub Hasan said a gang of four muggers entered the house of Assistant Judge Shawkat Hossain of Dhaka Judges' Court and looted the cellphone set and the amount keeping his roommate at knifepoint.

The OC said they identified the muggers, but he declined to disclose their names for the sake of their arrest.

The assistant judge said during the incident, he was in the court and he was informed of the incident over a cellphone by his roommate.

Meanwhile, muggers snatched Tk 4.30 lakh from a rice store manager in the city's Shyampur while he was taking the money to a bank in the area yesterday.

Police arrested Nazrul Islam, manager of Sattar Rice Agency at Shyampur in Kadamtali, suspecting his involvement in the snatch.

Police said a gang of three snatches intercepted the manager in front of the bank and snatched the money at gunpoint around 3:00pm.

In another incident, extortionists hacked a woman and her two sons at her house at Mirpur last evening as they failed to realise extortion from her husband.

The injured were identified as Mitu Begum, 40, wife of Abu Taher, and their sons -- Raju, 23, and Roni, 20, of Barabagh. Taher is the owner of Ma Moni Jewellers at Madhaya Monipur.

Mitu said a gang of 15-16 unidentified extortionists stormed her house around 8:00pm and attacked them with machetes and sticks, leaving them injured.

As they started screaming, locals rushed them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where they are undergoing treatment, she said.

Some local extortions were threatening her husband for Tk two lakh as extortion from his shop, Mitu said.

Asia Pacific Peacekeeping Training Centre Commandants conference begins

METRO DESK

A four-day Asia Pacific Peacekeeping Training Centre Commandants Conference (APPTCCC)-2009 began at Hotel Westin in the city yesterday, says an IPR press release.

Chief of General Staff (CGS) Major General Abdul Hafiz inaugurated the conference as the chief guest.

Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) under United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) and Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT) under Bangladesh Army jointly hosted the conference.

Peacekeeping Training Centre Commandants from 10 countries -- Bangladesh, Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand of Asia Pacific regions are taking part in the conference.

'Name Buet dormitory after Sufia Kamal'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded the dormitory for female students at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) be named after noted poet Sufia Kamal.

They also urged the authorities concerned to name dormitories for female students at all the public universities after poet Sufia Kamal.

Bangla Academy organised the discussion at its auditorium in the city to mark the 98th birth anniversary of the noted poet.

The speakers also demanded her works be included in the textbooks in primary and secondary school levels.

Sufia Kamal had fought against all sorts of injustice and repression and she dreamt of establishing a society where equal rights would be ensured, said speakers at the discussion.

To press home the demand for a secular society, on several

Attack on indigenous people condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and its partner organisations yesterday strongly condemned the heinous attack on Adivasi community in Naogaon and demanded exemplary punishment to the perpetrators, says a press release.

In a statement, the leaders of the organisations said, "We, the human rights organisations, observe with grave concern that a number of Adivasi communities were attacked by local influential people to grab their lands and assets in the recent time. Besides, the incidence of killing and physical torture, houses of these communities were torched and looted."

Referring to the on-the-spot investigations at Porsha in Naogaon, Kulaura in Moulvibazar and Shuvolong in Rangamati, they said it reveals that in most of the cases, perpetrators are the local powerful people supported by the government

occasions she took to the street, they added.

She thought not only of Bangalee women's social freedom but also their political freedom.

Speakers demanded that the birthday and death anniversary of Sufia Kamal be observed nationally.

Journalist Baby Moudud said Sufia Kamal had made Bangalee women aware of their rights.

She had also played an active role during the Language Movement in 1952, the mass uprising of 1969 and finally the liberation war of 1971, Baby added.

Woman leader Ayesha Khanam chaired the discussion while eminent writer Selina Hossain presented the keynote paper.

Directorate General of Bangla Academy and others with Feni police station under Public Safety Act, 2000 on charge of extorting money from different organisations and businessmen.

Hazari's lawyer Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder told The Daily Star that Hazari cannot be released from jail following yesterday's HC order since he is wanted in two more cases.

He said the HC had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case.

Hazari surrendered before a Feni court on May 15 this year in connection with a corruption case, which sent him to jail the same day.

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EXTORTION CASE
HC grants ad interim bail to Hazari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted an interim bail for four months to former Awami League lawmaker Joynal Abedin Hazari in an extortion case.

The HC bench of Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice Md Bazlur Rahman also issued a rule upon the government to explain within six weeks why Hazari should not be granted regular bail in this case.

Referring to another question of lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, Mostafizur said as per the document of the National Adaptation Programme of Action, sea level of the Bay of Bengal would rise to 14 centimetre, 32 cm and 88 cm by the year of 2020, 2050 and 2100 respectively.

"I'm sure that Hamid was involved in the assassination of Bangabandhu, though his name was somehow dropped from the list of the accused in the case," said Faridpur Superintendent of Police Mizanur Rahman at a press conference at his office yesterday afternoon.

Replies to another question of lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, Mostafizur said as per the document of the National Adaptation Programme of Action, sea level of the Bay of Bengal would rise to 14 centimetre, 32 cm and 88 cm by the year of 2020, 2050 and 2100 respectively.

"The low-lying coastal areas might submerge by that time if the projection of the sea-level rise remains unchanged," the state minister added.

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