

DHAKA CITY CORPORATION

Tk 1411.58cr budget to be announced today

HELEML 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 as 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 1276.58 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.

As revenue expenditure, Tk 150 crore will be spent on salaries, wages and allowances of DCC officials and employees.

The allocation for mosquito control programme has increased by Tk one crore from the current Tk 15 crore but the allocation for waste management has been fixed at Tk 9.75 crore which is less than Tk 1.25 crore from the current fiscal.

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

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

The corporation has set a target of Tk 50 crore from bazar selami, 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.

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 Mahub 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 knife-point.

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 snatchers 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 Rony, 20, of Barabagh. Taher is the owner of Ma Moni Jewellers at Madhya 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 added.

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

Asia Pacific Peacekeeping Training Centre Commandants confce 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 ISPR 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 Buett 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

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 upsurge 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 Shamsuzzaman Khan, Dr Sajed Kamal and former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal were also present.

Attack on indigenous people condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and its partner organisations yesterday strongly condemned the heinous attack on Adivasi families 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

machinery. The organisations have already stood by the victims and taken an initiative to provide the victims with food, clothing and shelter, they added.

The leaders also recommended the government take a long-term programme to redress the torture on the Adivasi, allied with implementing CHT Accord for the hill population and forming a separate land commission for the plain-land Adivasi to resolve the land-related conflicts.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafiqunnessa Huda, former chairman of Department of Bengla of Shiddheswari Girls' College and wife of late Mir Sirajul Huda, former correspondent of Voice of America, passed away due to cancer on Friday at the age of 71, says a press release.

Her kulkharna will be held today after Maghrib prayers at her residence (House-7/B, Apartment-2/C, Road-86, Gulshan-2) in the city.

EXTORTION CASE HC grants ad interim bail to Hazari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad interim bail for four months to former Awami League lawmaker Joyal 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.

The bench passed the order upon a bail petition filed by Hazari.

The police in 2002 filed the case against Hazari and 36 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.

3 injured in Keraniganj gunfight

UNB, Keraniganj

Three people were injured in a gunfight between two groups of people over capturing a house at Par Gandaria in Keraniganj upazila yesterday.

The injured were identified as Jamal Hossain, 37, Se ntu, 35, and Ibrahim, 28.

Witnesses said the clash ensued between the two groups, one led by Ibrahim while another by Meser Ali, at about 1:30pm as both the sides tried to capture the house of a UP chairman who died 10 years ago.

The feuding groups fired gun shots during the clash, leaving three people from both the sides injured.

Bullet-hit Jamal and Sentu were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Ibrahim to Mitford Hospital.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police have been deployed in the area to avoid further violence.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Haji Md Abdul Wazed Babul, a businessman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Non-government primary schoolteachers stage a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding immediate nationalisation of their jobs. (Story on Page 5)

16pc land to go under water by 2080

State minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Environment and Forest Mostafizur Rahman told parliament yesterday that an additional 16 percent land of Bangladesh would submerge during monsoon floods by 2080 due to climate change.

Referring to the survey of Institute of Water Modelling and Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, he also apprehended that southern part of the country might go under water due to the climate change impacts.

In response to a query of AL lawmaker Shafiqul Islam, the state minister said the government has taken different steps, including conducting some surveys by the 'climate change cell' of department of forest to tackle the situation.

Replying 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.

BEATING STUDENTS Probe body formed, teacher suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The assistant headmaster of GR Institution School and College at Sonargaon of Narayanganj has been suspended and a five-member committee formed to probe into the incident of beating 50 students mercilessly on Saturday.

Kamrul Islam beat the students of yellow branch of class nine with wooden rulers for coming to school without books.

Md Walid Hossain, president of the school managing committee and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), said an investigation committee headed by Upazila Secondary Education Officer Nayar Sultana has been formed to probe into the incident.

Necessary action would be taken after the investigation, he added.

In protest against the incident, the students and their guardians kept the teacher confined for three hours, ransacked the school and brought out a protest procession.

Police and members of the school managing committee rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by arresting the teacher.

Forty injured students, including Sumona, Suchona, Moni, Rumpa, Rita, Nasrin, Asaduzzaman, Zakir and Sajid were admitted to local hospital and clinics.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI) organises a seminar on 'Rights and economic empowerment of grassroots women in Bangladesh'. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11:30am.

Santal Hool

Bangladesh Adivasi Odhakar Andolon organises a daylong programme to mark the 154th anniversary of Santal Hool. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 9:30am.

BANGABANDHU MURDER

Col Faruq's close aide Hamid held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have arrested a Freedom Party leader who was a close aide of Syed Faruq Rahman, one of the self-declared killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in Faridpur.

Although he was arrested on Saturday, police disclosed it yesterday and said the arrestee, ABK Hamid alias Bulbul, 55, was involved in the killing of Bangabandhu.

"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.

Police arrested Hamid from his residence at Wireless Para in the town in the early hours of Saturday under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Police said they had secret information that Hamid was trying to carry out subversive activities forging a unity with the cadres of Freedom Party and members of banned Mujahideen outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

In pursuit of his ill motive, Hamid organised a meeting at a place in front of Kazi Furniture at Khabashpur in Faridpur town on Friday evening where Freedom Party and JMB members participated.

The Faridpur SP also said Shibir members may also joined the meeting and have involvement in the plan as Jamaat secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid was present in the district during the meeting.

However, ABK Hamid who was paraded at the briefing told reporters that he was not involved in Bangabandhu killing, as he was on leave during that time.

Sources said Hamid joined Bangladesh Army in 1973 as a sepoy. During his service, he was a member of the Tank Regiment of Lt Col (sacked) Syed Faruq Rahman, one of



ABK Hamid

the condemned killers of Bangabandhu.

Sources also said that ABK Hamid was sacked from army in 1976 on disciplinary charges. He then went to Palestine in 1979 to fight for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) where he directly took part in the anti-Israel battles for three years.

At one stage he was captured by the Israeli forces with bullet injuries.

Later in 1982 he was again arrested in Libya with arms and ammo in a Panama flag carrying ship.

Hamid then returned to Bangladesh in 1983 while Faruq returned home in 1985.

Hamid contested the national election from Faridpur-3 constituency in 1988 and suffered defeat.

DU senate session begins today

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day annual senate session of Dhaka University (DU) will begin today at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan of the university with Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

On the first day of the session, DU Treasurer Prof Mijanur Rahman will place a Tk 184 crore budget for the fiscal year 2009-10, sources at DU accounts office said.

The revised budget for 2008-09 of the university will also be placed in the session.

ROHINGYA REFUGEE PROBLEM

Diplomatic initiative underway to resolve it

Minister tells UNHCR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diplomatic initiatives are underway for permanent solutions of Rohingya refugee problem by sending them to their homeland.

This was stated by Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak during a meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Pia Prytz Phiri at his secretariat office in the city yesterday.

"Rohingya problem is an extra-burden for a disaster-prone country like Bangladesh. This problem needs a quick solution and Bangladesh wants Rohingya refugees to go back to their country," the minister said.

He said the government will place the issue at the international forum for a permanent solution of the problem.

About the unregistered

Rohingyas, the minister said the government would soon take proper steps in this regard.

Praising Bangladesh for giving shelter to Rohingya refugees the UNHCR representative said, "It (Rohingya problem) is now a regional problem and the joint initiatives by Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand are needed to resolve the problem."

It may be mentioned that about 2,50,877 Rohingyas were registered from November 1991 to June 1992, and of them 2,36,599 Rohingyas have gone back to their country.

Currently 24,135 registered Rohingyas are staying at Kutupalong camp of Ukhiya upazila and Nayapara camp at Teknaf upazila.

Besides, a large number of unregistered Rohingyas are staying in the country.

PILKHANA CARNAGE

Seven more BDR jawans confess to crimes

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Seven more jawans of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday confessed to their involvement in the killings and lootings at BDR headquarters on February 25-26.

Meantime, court sources said jail authorities would not produce today 1552 BDR jawans and civilians arrested in connection with the Pilkhana carnage before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (CMM) of Dhaka due to security and accommodation reasons.

A police official of the CMM on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that jail authorities are bound to bring all the accused in any case before any court if the concerned courts direct to produce the accused. But they were yet to get any order from the CMM to produce BDR mutineers before the court.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has so far taken a total of 1268 BDR jawans and civilians on remand for interrogation while 206 had given confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.

Killing of RMG workers condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties, labour organisations and trade unions yesterday condemned the killing of garment workers at Ashulia.

Workers at Dhakula and exemplary punishment to the people responsible and adequate compensation to the victims' family and proper treatment of the injured.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a statement demanded attacks on the workers be stopped immediately.

CPB will hold a protest rally and take out a procession from Muktangan in the city at 5:00pm today in protest against the killing of the garment workers.

Leaders of Left Democratic Alliance condemned the incident and demanded proper investigation and trial of the responsible members of law enforcement agencies.

Jatiya Samik Federation Bangladesh demanded proper investigation into the incidents.

They alleged that the incident was instigated by the owners. Such incidents are not desirable, they added.

Leaders of Gono Sanghati Andolan said the incident has proved that the workers are still being repressed across the country.

They said the workers of the factories have been demanding their wages for over a month but the owners, without paying any heed to their demands, took the path of torture.

Leaders of Garment Samik O Shilpa Raksha Jatiya Mancha in a rally said the main reason behind the unrest is irregularities in paying salaries and wages and autocracy of the owners.

Bangladesh Garment Samik Oikya Parishad said it is not possible to stop the lawful movements of the workers by torturing them.

Bangladesh Biplobi Workers Party, Samajtantrik Samik Front, Garment Samik Oikya Forum, Garment Samik Trade Union Kendra, Bangladesh Trade Union Federation, Bangladesh Garment Samik Sanghati and Janamukti Party also condemned the incident.



Pharmaceutical society executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof ABM Faroque, a teacher of Pharmaceutical Engineering of Dhaka University, and AS Selim Azad Chowdhury, head of business of Newcare & Company, were elected president and general secretary of the executive committee of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society (BPS), says a press release.

The election was held at TSC auditorium of Dhaka University recently.

Other office-bearers are: vice-presidents - Prof Farida Begum and Mujib Khan; Joint secretary - Jayanta Kumar Dev and Sazzadul Bait; and publicity secretary - Abul Kalam Lutful Kabir.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over all the six divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls may occur at places during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:50pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.9 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.4	27.8	78	91
Chittagong	31.6	25.3	97	88
Rajshahi	36.3	28.5	84	89
Khulna	32.0	26.0	90	98
Barisal	30.5	27.0	86	95
Sylhet	31.0	26.3	90	89
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.0	97	95