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6pc ADP cut likely

Most ministries fail to meet implementation target

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government might slash the Annual Development Programme (ADP) by 6 percent or Tk 2,000 crore as most ministries have failed to spend their budget allocations.

In the current fiscal year the government took up an ambitious ADP of Tk 30,500 crore. Now it will come down to Tk 28,500 crore.

A meeting of the fiscal coordination council on Sunday with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair reviewed the total status of financial resources of the budget and the resources yet to be tapped.

After reviewing the implementation status it suggested trimming down the ADP.

The planning ministry is now working on the revised ADP and will place it at the meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) very soon.

According to preliminary information of the planning ministry, during the six months from July to December only 28 percent of the ADP allocation has been spent.

If the government wants to implement the full ADP it will have to spend the remaining 72 percent in the next six months, which the planning ministry officials think is "absurd".

Of the total ADP 10 large ministries got 76 percent allocation. In the first six months of the current fiscal year the communications ministry could spend only 16 percent, power division 22 percent, health and family welfare ministry 27 percent, water resources ministry 18 percent, housing and public works ministry 4 percent, education ministry 33 percent, agriculture ministry 34 percent, primary and mass education ministry 39 percent and local government division 39 percent.

Only the energy division could spend 74 percent though its allocation was very small compared to the ministries.

Generally every fiscal year the government takes up a large ADP and at the end of the year it is cut down. Finally the government fails to implement the revised ADP.

Over Tk 20,000 crore ADP has never been implemented. Despite that the new government, in a bid to increase public investment, took up a big-size ADP this time.

An official who was present at the meeting said this time the ADP is not being slashed for shortage of resources.

He said, "Our revenue and foreign aid are still satisfactory. This year the national revenue growth target was around 16 percent. In six months till December 17 percent of the growth target has been achieved."

From July to October the foreign aid showed a negative trend and only \$ 364 million foreign aid was received but at the end of five months in November it crossed \$1 billion.

The planning minister has already discussed with the secretaries of different ministries early this month and said if any

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is greeted by Sonia Gandhi, the chairperson of India's ruling United Progressive Alliance, at the latter's 10 Janpath residence in New Delhi yesterday. PHOTO: PTD

Robber killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leader of an inter-district robbers gang was killed and one of his accomplices injured in a 'shootout' with police in Hathazari upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Khalil Dakat, 37, son of Mansur Mian of Harpara village under Rauzan upazila while the injured was Abul Hossain, 27, son of Abdus Sattar of Borodighir Par area under Hathazari.

Sources said a team of Hathazari police took position at Fatehpur on information that a gang of robbers was preparing to commit a robbery at Bhabanipur village under the Hathazari upazila.

Eight robbers on board two CNG-run auto-rickshaws appeared on the scene around 1:30am. As soon as police intercepted the auto-rickshaws, the

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All highways to be made 4-lane

Communications minister informs JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has planned to upgrade all the highways to four-lane in phases with an estimated expenditure of Tk 25,000 crore in efforts to develop communication network across the country, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told the House yesterday.

"I have already discussed the issue with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and she has consented in principle to the plan. I also submitted to her a summary to this end," the communications minister said while replying to lawmakers' queries.

The minister also said four hundred wide-body buses will be purchased to ply the capital to reduce traffic jam.

"Floating tender for purchasing 300 buses is under process. I also requested the prime minister, now visiting India, to see whether some buses can be collected from Indian assistance," the minister said.

The minister said construction of underground railway to ease congestion in the capital is under active consideration of the govern-

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Bangabandhu's killers deserve no mercy

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the three condemned convicts in Bangabandhu assassination case, who sought presidential mercy, should not get any reprieve, but it is the president's prerogative.

"The convicts killed the then president of the country also the father of the nation, along with most of his family. The killing was one of the most heinous offences in history, and that is why the killers do not deserve mercy," he said.

The law minister was speaking to reporters in his Bangladesh Secretariat office yesterday afternoon.

The government will execute the death sentences after all legal avenues for the

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BNP for trial of 1/11 'organisers'

Observes 'black day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP, the main opposition in parliament, has demanded trials of the main players and collaborators of the 1/11 changeover in the country, and claimed that people who do not observe the day as a 'black day' were also involved in 'the conspiracy'.

"Some military and civil bureaucrats, a section of the intelligentsia and newspapers, and many political parties and their leaders were involved in the 1/11 conspiracy, and they must be tried," Khandaker Delwar Hossain, secretary general of the party, said yesterday at a discussion meeting held in the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh as a part of observing January 11 as a 'black day'.

BNP identifies the day as 'black' saying on January 11, 2007 fundamental rights of the people were suspended through an imposition of a state of emergency.

Black flags were hoisted at all its offices including the central office, and discussion meetings were held as part of the day's programmes.

BNP leaders blasted the chief adviser to the immediate past caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed, the immediate past army chief Gen (ret'd) Moeen U Ahmed, and then general officer commanding (GOC) of the 9 division of army Lt Gen Masududdin Chowdhury for 'masterminding' 1/11. But surprisingly he did not

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Newborn stolen from DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newborn baby was stolen as his mother slept beside him in a labour ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

Mother-of-four Salma Begum, 35, wife of Md Roman, a motor mechanic assistant of Kajla in Jatrabari, was admitted to ward 17 at DMCH on Sunday afternoon and gave birth to her son that evening.

Salma's mother Banu Begum visited her daughter and grandson in hospital and returned to her house at around 10:00pm Sunday night.

A crying Salma told The Daily Star that a tall and healthy woman aged around 35-years-old came to her ward and told her that she could not locate the patient she had come to visit.

The woman then told

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India walk away easy

ATIQUE ANAM

Virat Kohli scored an unbeaten hundred to guide India to another comprehensive six-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the Idea Cup triangular series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

It was the 21-year-old batsman's second hundred who has scored two half-centuries in the tournament already. This defeat ended Bangladesh's tournament with four defeats in their four matches while India go into tomorrow's final against Sri Lanka on the back of two successive victories. This result also kept the tradition of the team winning by batting second in tact.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan had been voicing his satisfaction throughout the series with the batting performance of his team. Though there was nothing to shout about bowling, Shakib found plenty to brag in scores of 260, 296 and 249, batting first all three times on same belter of pitches. On all four occasions though, the opponents ran down the targets with ample overs and wickets to spare. As if to prove him wrong, the first half of the batting line committed harakiri in their last match against India yesterday, in the process bringing out their lowest total of 247. And that score owes most to the efforts of the captain himself and a consistent Mahmudullah Riyad. It all happened after Shakib lost the toss for the third time in four matches, and as expected MS

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Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan pulls one for a four during his sublime knock of 85 against India in the sixth one-day international of the Idea Cup tri-series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Worker Recruitment Process Bangladesh to seek Libyan assistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will seek Libyan assistance in disciplining the labour recruitment process and ensuring Bangladeshi workers' welfare in the oil-rich North African country, which requires around a million foreign workers by 2014.

"We shall ask the Libyan counterparts so that none can trade on visas and hike migration cost of workers," said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain, who left for Libya leading a five-member delegation last night.

During the three-day visit, they are scheduled to meet Libyan human resources and interior ministers and the Bangladeshi workers and businessmen there.

Though Bangladesh's labour market shrunk by half during the global economic recession, Libya continued hiring Bangladeshi workers, which started early last year. Till date, Libya hired around 24,000 workers, and requires many more in the coming years.

But malpractices in Libya, like those in Malaysia, resulted in unemployment or under-employment of many workers. Some also were forced to return home, said officials in the expatriates' welfare ministry and recruiting agents.

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Criminals gun down trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down a trader and snatched Tk 1 lakh from his possession at Natun Sahapur in Keraniganj yesterday.

The victim Osman Gani Swapan, 40, was a hardware trader at Ruhitpur Bazar in the area.

Relatives of the deceased said armed criminals intercepted Osman's motorbike at Sahapur while he was returning home in the area after closing shop around 8:00pm.

His minor son Jewel, however, managed to escape the scene.

Locals rushed Osman immediately to Mitford hospital with injury at the chest but

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No plan to send troops to Yemen

Says Obama; 17 Yemeni rebels, 8 soldiers die in fighting

AFP, Washington/ Sanaa

President Barack Obama says he has "no intention" of sending US troops to fight militants in Yemen and Somalia, despite growing concern over the presence of militant cells there.

Obama made a fresh push for international cooperation to confront militants in Yemen, where the top US military officer, Admiral Michael Mullen, said sending troops was "not a possibility."

"I never rule out any possibility in a world that is this complex... In countries like Yemen, in countries like Somalia, I think working with international partners is most effective at this point," Obama said in a People interview to be published Friday. The magazine released a transcript Sunday.

"I have no intention of sending US boots on the ground in these regions."

He insisted the lawless tribal belt straddling the Afghanistan-Pakistan border "remains the epicentre of al-Qaeda," but

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AUG 21 PROBE CID wants to quiz former OC Rafiq

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department yesterday sought permission from a Dhaka court to quiz detained former officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station Mohammad Rafiqul Islam at the jail gate in connection with the August 21, 2004 grenade attack cases.

CID's Senior Additional Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akond, also the investigation officer of the

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think BNP will cooperate with the government even if PM's visit to India brings success for Bangladesh?

Yes (46.3%)
 No (52.8%)
 No Comments (0.9%)

Total votes: 1410

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Bangladesh Land Developers Association will oust the land grabbers from the association responding to state minister for housing Abdul Mannan Khan's call?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

January 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation