

Resolve immediately gas-power-water crisis

Lawmakers demand at pre-budget discussion

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Lawmakers in pre-budget discussion yesterday pointed to immediate resolution of the public utility service issues like gas, power and water and containing the prices of essentials.

They said it will be difficult to seek support from voters in the next elections if the issues are not addressed.

Held at the National Economic Council auditorium, the discussion was chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

The parliament members proposed imposition of wealth taxes on houses and cars of the affluent community. They also criticised implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) and the move to ban the use of air-conditioners during peak hours.

The finance minister advised the MPs to raise these issues in parliament and urged them to make the ministries accountable.

"These matters do not arise in a discussion on budget," Muhith said.

"I also think there should be tax on wealth, like houses and cars. But when the matter is raised, it is you who object. Instead of placing demands here, raise it in parliament," he added.

The finance minister yesterday started the pre-budget discussion for the next fiscal year. Chairmen and members of seven parliamentary standing committees, except those from Jamaat-e-Islami, participated.

Col (ret) Oli Ahmed, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry, suggested adopting a time-bound action plan to

implement ADP. He said the work has to start from September.

Pointing his finger at gas, power and water crises and soaring prices of essentials, lawmaker Saidul Haque said if these problems are not resolved, people's trust will diminish rapidly.

"If we cannot contain the prices of five essentials, namely rice, lentils, flour, sugar and fertilisers, we cannot approach the voters for support," said Haque.

Several other lawmakers echoed Haque.

In response, the finance minister said to end the power and gas crunch, liquefied natural gas has to be imported and a coal policy has to be formulated immediately. He said the prices of rice, flour and edible oil have remained static, but the government failed to control sugar and lentil prices.



Md Wasiuddin, national sales manager of Transcom Electronics Limited, hands over a Transtec 14-inch colour television to Jui Akter of Gaibandha, as she won a quiz, 'Transtec Bati Chhande Anande', broadcast on Bangladesh Betar every Sunday, at a programme in Dhaka recently.

Formal handover of local ship to Dutch buyer today

UNB, Dhaka

Ananda Shipyard and Slipways Ltd, the country's leading shipbuilding company, is going to formally handover its oceangoing ship Stella Moon to Dutch buyers Stella Shipping tomorrow.

On the eve of the handover function, a press conference will be held at the Chittagong Press Club auditorium today, says a press release.

The company has already set a milestone in the country's shipbuilding industry, exporting its first oceangoing ship Stella Maris to the same company on May 15, 2008.

Ananda Shipyard was the first local company to receive orders for ocean-going ships a couple of years ago, opening a new era in the country's ship-export sector.

India to give Rs 625cr stimulus for exports of four specific items

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India has announced a Rs 625 crore fresh package of incentives for exporters of garments, engineering, electronics and agro products to select markets where the demand for the goods is yet to pick up.

The sops, available from yesterday, will be in force for six months even as official estimates project that India is expected to end the 2009-10 fiscal year (which ended on March 30) well below the \$189 billion exports achieved in 2008-09.

Announcing the new package of stimulus, Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said here on Wednesday that there were sectors which required continued support as their demand have not yet picked up in key markets.

"We're extending help to some sectors which are still in the red, which include garments, electronics, jute and carpet. Out of the Rs 625 crore incentives, more than Rs 400 crore will go to export of about 300 garment items to the United States and Europe," Sharma said.

The balance will go to engineering, elec-

tronic and agro-chemical goods to 15 countries, including Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand, Nigeria, Algeria and Mexico, he added.

Exports to these countries will get the benefit of market-linked focus product scheme under which exporters will get duty-free scrips which can be used to import duty-free worth two percent of the value of exports. The scrips can also be sold in the market.

Welcoming the new stimulus package to the export sector, the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) said it would lend competitiveness to sectors, which are still in the red.

Sharma said the export target as set out in the government's Foreign Trade Policy for 2010-11 is \$200 billion.

Official statistics show export of electronic, jute and carpet goods fell by 28.6 percent, 22.4 percent and 96 percent respectively in February.

Meanwhile, while total exports registered a 34.8 percent increase in February, imports too rose by 66 percent during that month.

Growing import figures show the domestic economy is picking up, Sharma said.



SK Bashir Uddin, managing director of Akij Group, attends the National Sales Conference of Akij Cement Company Limited, a unit of the group, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel recently.

পরমাণু চিকিৎসা এবং আন্ড্রাসাউন্ড ইনস্টিটিউট
Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Ultrasound
 বাংলাদেশ পরমাণু শক্তি কমিশন
 Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
 ৮-১১ তলা, ব্লক-ডি, বিএসএমএমইউ চত্বর, পো: বঙ্গ-১৫৮, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০; ফোন: ০২-৯৬৭৫৪৮৭ ফ্যাক্স: ০২-৮৬২৫৬১১; ই-মেইল: inm@bol-online.com 7th-11th Floor Block-D, BSMMU Campus, PO Box-158, Ramna, Dhaka-1000; Phone 02-9675487; Fax: 02-8625611; e-mail: inm@bol-online.com
 সূত্র/Ref: INM/M.Phil-8(146)/99 তারিখঃ ২৬/০৩/১০ইং

ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১০-২০১১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধীনে "ইনস্টিটিউট অব নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিন এন্ড আন্ড্রাসাউন্ড" শাহবাগ ঢাকায় এমফিল (নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিন) কোর্সে ভর্তি হইতে ইচ্ছুক রেজিস্টার্ড মেডিকেল গ্রাজুয়েটদের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস হইতে "ইনস্টিটিউট অব নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিন এন্ড আন্ড্রাসাউন্ড"-এর নামে সংক্ষয়ী হিসাব নম্বর ১০৬৪০, পূর্বালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, শাহবাগ এডিনিউ শাখায় টা: ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রদানপূর্বক আবেদনের ফরম ১১-৪-২০১০ তারিখ হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে এবং ২২-৪-২০১০ তারিখের মধ্যে দরখাস্ত জমা দিতে হইবে। আবেদনকারীগণকে অবশ্যই ২৭-৪-২০১০ অথবা ২৮-৪-২০১০ তারিখে স্বয়ং অথবা প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে অত্র অফিস হইতে প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে। ২৯-৪-২০১০ তারিখ বৃষ্টিবার সকাল ১০-০০টায় লিখিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে (পরীক্ষার স্থান প্রবেশপত্রে উল্লেখ করা হইবে)।

ভর্তির জন্য পূর্ব যোগাতা:

এমফিল (নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিন)-কোর্সের মেয়াদ ২ (দুই) বৎসর।

- প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এবং ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত কোন মেডিকেল কলেজ হইতে গ্রাজুয়েট হইতে হইবে।
- প্রার্থীর ১ (এক) বৎসর ইন্টারমিডিয়েট থাকিতে হইবে।
- বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এবং ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত কোন হাসপাতাল হইতে (ক) ১ (এক) বৎসর নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিন ও ১ (এক) বৎসর মেডিসিন/সার্জারী/গাইনী ও অবস/রেডিওলজি/প্যাথলজী সহ মোট ২ (দুই) বৎসর অথবা নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিনে ২ (দুই) বৎসরের সার্বক্ষণিক ট্রেনিং থাকিতে হইবে।
- সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি অথবা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীগণকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
- স্নাতকোত্তর কোর্সে অধ্যয়নের জন্য সরকারি সর্বশেষ সিদ্ধান্ত সকল আবেদনকারীর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হইবে।
- প্রয়োজনীয় প্রশিক্ষণ ও যোগাতা থাকিলে বেসরকারি ডাক্তারগণও আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন।
- ৪৫ বৎসর বয়স পর্যন্ত প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন। তবে নিউক্লিয়ার মেডিসিনে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের বেলায় বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য।
- বয়স ও প্রশিক্ষণকাল হিসাবে ৩০-০৬-২০১০ কে সর্বশেষ সীমা বলিয়া ধরা হইবে।
- পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার চিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হইবে না।

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এম এফ কবীর
 পরিচালক

BB roadshow reaches Dinajpur, Thakurgaon

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Bank's roadshow reached Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts yesterday.

A motorcade for the roadshow -- Journey to Development: Teknaf to Tentulia -- arrived in Dinajpur from Rangpur yesterday afternoon. Jamuna Bank led the event there.

Later it reached Thakurgaon town the same day, led by Uttara Bank.

Two separate banking fairs were organised at Dinajpur Town Hall and Thakurgaon Zila Parishad Auditorium. There were 25 stalls in the Dinajpur banking fair while the number was 13 for Thakurgaon.

Financial issues including money laundering and remittance were discussed.

The roadshow that began in Teknaf on March 26 ends in Tentulia today.

Huawei rings up profit

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Huawei has announced an increase in revenue and net profit for 2009, registering a 19 percent growth in revenues over the previous year and expecting a 20 percent rise this year, said a statement.

The company logged sales revenues of \$21.8 billion and net profits of \$2.7 billion last year, according to its annual report audited by international accounting firm KPMG.

It reported a 12.2 percent rise in profit margins last year.

The global telecom network solutions provider's full-year financial

results for 2009 were released on Wednesday.

"We see our business momentum continuing in 2010 and expect year-on-year revenue growth of 20 percent driven by increased deployments of mobile and fixed broadband networks, further take-up of customised smart devices, and higher demand for professional managed services," said Ken Hu, chief marketing officer of Huawei.

Despite the challenging macro-economic environment, Huawei was able to record a strong performance in 2009 because of its customer-centric innovation strategy, said the statement.

Huawei's overall growth eased during a year in which overall capital expenditures by telecom network operators declined.

"Operators look to Huawei because of our unique value proposition of rapidly delivering robust solutions that address the business challenges of our customers through innovation," said the Huawei official.

"Our solutions improve network quality, reduce network maintenance expenditure and protect our customer's return on investments by 'future-proofing' their networks."

Huawei now serves 45 of the world's top 50 operators.

Luxury giant to buy former fashion editor's web venture

AFP, Geneva

Global luxury giant Richemont said on Thursday it was buying up a pioneering 10-year-old web-based women's fashion retailer, Net-a-Porter, founded by a former editor and valued at 350 million pounds.

The Swiss group already owns one third of the business, which was created by Frenchwoman Natalie Massenet and employs 600 staff in London and New York.

But its wholehearted venture into Internet fashion retailing would turn the website into one of the luxury goods company's hallmark "maisons," alongside standalone brands such as Cartier, Dunhill, IWC, Piaget and Van Cleef & Arpels.

Massenet would remain as chief executive and will invest in a Richemont unit being created to own the online business, the Swiss group said in a statement.

"Richemont announces that it has made an offer... to acquire all of the shares in Net-a-Porter," the Swiss company said in a statement.

"The offer values the equity of Net-a-Porter at 350 million pounds."

Richemont said that it had already received firm acceptances for its offer to buy outstanding shares in Net-a-Porter from owners of stock representing more than 80 percent of the voting rights.



Natalie Massenet

The total valuation given by Richemont, equivalent to 395 million euros or 533 million dollars, amounts to about three times the website's annual sales last year of about 120 million pounds.

Net-a-Porter has adopted the lively style of a chic fashion magazine to sell collections from more than 300 well-known designers, selling to customers in more than 170 countries.

It offers some 300 brands including Jimmy Choo, Stella McCartney and Givenchy, delivering clothes and accessories from an 18 euro (24 dollars) triple pack

of socks up to a 16,600-euro handbag with a few clicks of a mouse.

It defied the recession in the 12 months to January 2009 after notching up a 234 percent rise in pre-tax profits to 10.1 million pounds.

Massenet used to work for fashion publications Tatler and Women's Wear Daily. In November 2009 she was awarded an MBE honour by the Queen of England.

"Natalie has created a superb, customer-oriented business at Net-a-Porter in a relatively short period of time," Richemont chief executive Johann Rupert

said. Massenet commented that her team was proud of what they had built up in the 10 years since the business was founded.

"Richemont has completely embraced our vision and strategy since they came on board as a shareholder and together we are going to continue to build the 21st century model for luxury fashion retailing," she said.

Massenet reportedly held an estimated 18 percent stake in the website before the deal and stands to make a substantial profit, estimated in some news reports at 50 million pounds.

The luxury goods industry in general has traditionally been wary of online retailing. But a Richemont executive also pointed to recent web sales ventures by Cartier in Japan and the United States.

"The 'maisons' in the Richemont Group are not afraid of the net," he said.

Alessandro Migliorini, an analyst at Helvea bank, described the acquisition as "a surprise," pointing to limited synergies with the rest of the group, although Richemont would gain expertise in Internet sales, he added.

Richemont's share price gained 1.9 percent by lunchtime (1155 GMT) trading on the Swiss exchange.

The Net-a-Porter transaction would be booked for Richemont's 2010-2011 financial year, which began on April 1.