



PHOTO: STAR

Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury hands over a crest to Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi Everest conqueror, at a civic reception at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. Former chief adviser to the caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, extreme left, and Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed, extreme right, were present on the occasion. Musa Ibrahim Reception Council organised the event. North Alpine Club, Prothom Alo Bandhu Sabha, The Daily Star, Channel i, ABC Radio, Young Writers and Artists Initiative, Bangladesh Maths Olympiad Committee and Chhobir Haat have extended their support to the programme.

Govt has not meddled with media: Muhith

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said the government has not meddled with the maseerence, he said while delivering his budget speech in parliament yesterday.

He, however, did not mention the recent closure of Channel 1, a private TV station, and the daily Amar Desh and the arrest of its acting editor Mahmudur Rahman.

Muhith said, "In my previous budget speech, I said that once we can ensure freedom of the media as well as free flow of information, accountability and transparency will be enhanced, corruption will be reduced and good governance will be established."

He also requested all senior and renowned journalists working in newspapers, electronic media and other institutions to arrange training for their junior colleagues.

At times, he said, the level of professionalism in this field falls short of expectations and "I feel saddened at the lukewarm efforts of our journalist friends in conducting investigative journalism."

He also asked the owners of newspapers to offer decent emoluments to journalists following the Wage Board Award.

Muhith also proposed to allocate Tk. 3.08 crore in the 2010-2011 budget for the Press Institute of Bangladesh to provide training to journalists.

CANTONMENT HOUSE HC extends its order for 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday extended for three months its earlier order for the third time that stayed the government notice asking BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to leave her cantonment house.

The HC bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif passed the extension order upon a prayer moved by her (Khaleda) lawyer Barrister Mahub Uddin Khokon.

Earlier on May 27 last year, the HC stayed for three months the proceedings of the government notice asking Khaleda to leave the house, and also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the notice should not be declared illegal.



PHOTO: STAR

From right, Jamil-Runa and Asma-Alamgir -- two couples whose marriages were arranged on Wednesday at the Gano Bhaban -- pray at Azimpur graveyard yesterday for the family members and relatives killed in Nimtoli fire on June 3.

Tk 83.84 cr for police force

KAILASH SARKAR

"If the police department gets the allocated funds timely and the fund is utilised properly, the country and its people will benefit," said NBK Tripura, additional Inspector General of Police (administration).

According to the proposed budget, Tk 50 lakh has been allocated for 60 investigation centres across the country, Tk 1.50 crore for construction of seven complexes for Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Tk 1 crore for 50 police outposts for Highway Police, Tk 1 crore for 10 police barracks (each barrack will be able to accommodate 500 policemen), Tk 36.70 crore for construction of National Crime Control and Operation Monitoring Centre, Tk 15 crore for 12 administrative buildings-cum-barracks and newly approved police stations, Tk 11.14 crore for strengthening of Police Staff College, Tk 1 crore for renovation of 50 old police station buildings, Tk 6 crore for establishing a DNA laboratory and Tk 10 crore for modernising the Bangladesh Police Academy, Sharodah.

The police department would receive an allocation of Tk 83.84 crore as per the proposed budget for 2010-11 placed in parliament yesterday.

The amount is Tk 10.6 crore higher than the revised allocation in the present budget.

"We want to guarantee the rule of law and justice. To this end, we have taken a firm stance against the extreme communal forces and militants," Finance Minister AMA Muhith said in his budget speech.

Steps are also being taken to form 'Industrial Police' while restructuring of CID (Criminal Investigation Department), SB (Special Branch), and Highway Police are going on, he added.

The police high-ups, however, want proper utilisation of the allocation as well as timely implementation of on-going projects to strengthen the forces.

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