

WC explodes

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scape, humanity, progress and vibrant spirit that is in this continent," Zuma told visiting heads of state.

"They will see that this continent is not about wars and conflict. It is a continent of peoples who love peace, harmony and sustainable development."

All the stadiums and World Cup infrastructure projects have been completed on time although crime is still a worry. Journalists have been robbed at gunpoint and thieves have even stolen cash from the rooms of the Greek team.

The first of the tournament's 63 matches, between South Africa's Bafana Bafana team and Mexico, followed the opening ceremony at Soccer City, a showpiece arena rebuilt to resemble an African cooking pot, lying just a long kick from Soweto.

Hundreds of dancers filled Soccer City with the sights and sounds of Africa for the opening ceremony. The stadium, the largest in Africa, buzzed with the sound of thousands of vuvuzela trumpets as five

jets flew overhead.

Mandela delivered a videotape message spliced into one of the songs, welcoming the World Cup to South Africa and imploring fans "to overcome all adversaries".

A traditional African praise singer in animal skins opened the 40-minute show, as dancers lined up along the compass points indicating the eight other host cities around South Africa.

A giant dung beetle puppet pushed across the pitch an oversize version of the official World Cup football, as dancers then unfurled stretches of cloth to make a map of Africa, with footprints showing the migration of humankind across the continent.

Legendary trumpeter Masekela and American R-and-B star R Kelly headlined the event.

R Kelly was joined by the Soweto Spiritual Singers to perform his hit "Sign of Victory", before the 32 competing teams were announced with cut-outs of their flags spinning on the field.

Child labour

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100, said Zakiul Islam who employs Shohag and Zakir.

"Use of unknown substances may cause skin diseases and trigger allergies. And its repeated use on already affected skin may cause double infection," Associate Prof of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital Asif Mujtaba Mahmud told The Daily Star.

"In the long run, double infection might damage kidney and heart," he added.

When government and non-government organisations in the country were holding press conferences to mark the "World day against child labour 2010", which is today, The Daily Star correspondents visited Kamrangirchar yesterday.

Even though children were seen engaged in menial work across the country, Kamrangirchar and Keraniganj are havens for child labour. Balloon factories, aluminium-utensil factories, rope factories, lathe machines and battery factories are among the worst places children work in these areas.

Newspaper reports last year about child labour in balloon and aluminium factories apparently went in vein. Children are still working in those factories in Kamrangirchar and Keraniganj. "The government has to have special measure for rehabilitation of the children engaged in labour, otherwise it would be impossible to eradicate child labour," said Child Protection Specialist of Unicef, Bangladesh Aminul Islam.

According to the labour laws, children under the age of 14 cannot be employed in any industry that may cause harm to their health.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2003 report, 3.2 million children are

involved in labour and 1.29 million of them are involved in hazardous labour. The bureau considers work more than 43 hours a week as hazardous since it is detrimental to children's physical and mental health.

Campaign

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charge of pilfering gas through meter tampering.

"We would send written objection to the Election Commission with documents to decide whether Manjur can contest the election, as he was accused and fined for such a crime," Mohiuddinn said.

Manjur's campaign
BNP backed mayoral candidate M Manjur Alam here yesterday carried out electoral campaign emphasising on taking opinion of people from all strata of life for developing the city.

Opinion of people is equally important, Manjur observed.

He was carrying out mass contact and campaign in different areas of No 38 South Middle Halishahar, Saltgola Crossing, Kalamajhirpara, Kalshidighir Parr.

Manjur also held view exchange meetings with leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal, Chandpur District Jatiyatabadi Forum and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Patenga thana unit in the morning.

He also visited Majibhander Darbar Sharif of Fatikchhari and offered Fateha there before saying Juma Prayer at Baluchhara Mosque in the city.

Khasru demands withdrawal of case against SQ Chy
Meanwhile, Manjur Alam's chief election agent and BNP Chittagong city unit president Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury here yesterday condemned the case filed against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury on Thursday night.

He urged immediate withdrawal of the case filed by the Election Commission in Chittagong.

In a press statement Amir Khasru said filing of the case against an elderly lawmaker, without clearing the confusion, might raise question about the impartiality of the election commission.

Rab custody

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named Zahid went missing on May 17 from Uttara. Following the incident Zahid's sister Shafia Akhter Swarna lodged a complaint with Rab-1 suspecting that her brother was abducted.

Rab-1 members were investigating the matter. Biplob called Swarna and told her that a team consisting of four members of DB police would find Zahid and they needed money for that. The four impersonators including Biplob took Tk 3,000 from her on June 3.

They did not give Swarna any information about Zahid. Later, they demanded Tk 2,200 and Swarna was supposed to give the money on Thursday.

Swarna informed Rab-1 about the gang.

Rab arrested Biplob from Mirpur Paikpara Thursday night.

DB police took him in custody and launched a drive to arrest his accomplices. Rab-1 men raided his Mirpur residence and recovered a toy pistol from there.

During primary interrogation, he confessed to his crime.

Swarna yesterday morning identified Biplob as one of the four miscreants who took money from her.

Biplob told Rab that earlier he served jail terms several times for cheating people.

PM sees

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of ruling Awami League, said, "Many have termed it as a highly-ambitious budget. But I think our high ambition is to ensure economic freedom for the people of Bangladesh."

"So it is not right to frighten the people by terming the budget as highly ambitious," she said adding, "We want to make sure that the people's expectations are met through our striving for economic development."

"As if we could not implement the current year's budget, which is also big in size," the premier quipped adding, "We've implemented this budget quitenicely."

Commenting about her incarceration and release, Hasina said after coming out of jail she fought for democracy, and restored it through the last parliamentary election on December 29, 2008.

"Democracy must continue as there is no other alternative to achieving development," she said.

Expressing gratitude to the people, her party colleagues, and the media for mobilising public opinion for her release, Hasina deplored repeated suspensions of the people's democratic rights, and hailed their struggle for restoration.

A cross-section of the people including senior AL leaders and ministers went to Gono Bhaban to greet Hasina with flowers on the occasion. AL leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Abdul Latif Siddique, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Abdur Razzaque, and Abdul Mannan Khan presented wreaths to the premier.

AL front organisations Jubo League and Sweschasebak League organised discussions in the capital marking the day where AL leader Matia Chowdhury spoke among others.

Kutubkhali

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their kitchen and other waste into the canal clogging it even more, said Mahmud, another resident of Kutubkhali.

Belayet said no waste collection measure has been taken by the Dhaka City Corporation in the area and locals hire vehicles to collect waste, which is also not very regular.

The clogging of the canal has intensified the menace of mosquitoes in Kutubkhali and South Jatrabari, said a local tailor.

He said, "We started dumping rubbish in front of our shop to prevent waterlogging about 20 days ago."

It stopped waterlogging in front of the shop but other places are still inundated as of May 25 even though it rained a week ago.

Omar Faruk, another resident of Kutubkhali, said authorities concerned that clean up the canal keep sludge on the bank instead of removing it, which washes into the canal again.

Additional Chief Waste Management Officer of the DCC Dewan Md Shah Alam said they do not collect waste from Kutubkhali area as it is out of the jurisdiction of the DCC but they do collect waste from a portion of South Jatrabari.

Manzur Morshed, executive engineer of division-1 of Bangladesh Water Development Board, said they have taken a project worth around Tk 380 crore including setting up four new pumps and excavating 94km of canals to reduce waterlogging in the DND area.

The Kutubkhali canal runs through the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Dhaka (DND) area. The excavation of the canal will also be done under this project, he said.

Other components of the project include, constructing 145 box culverts and repairing 9km long floodwall, he said.

"We have been preparing a Development Project Proforma for the project, which might be submitted within a week," said Manzur, adding, "We will be able to start work from August or September if we get the approval of Ecne [Executive Committee of National Economic Council]."

CCC ward

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launching the system.

He said the e-voting was easier than the manual system.

EC Secretary Humayun Kabir and Returning Officer of CCC poll Jesmin Tuli visited different centres.

Humayun Kabir told reporters that they are going to launch the system on a very limited scale and would expand it gradually.

Regarding poor presence of voters in the mock voting, Kabir said if necessary the EC might arrange such mock voting again before the CCC polls.

MCCI slates

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the two major challenges.

The budget focused on high growth rates in GDP, exports, imports, remittances and investment. But specific measures are required to contain inflation in the light of soaring commodity prices worldwide.

Besides, the proposed arbitrary determination of price by the VAT authorities is a violation of the concept of value addition and cannot be uniformly applicable to all industries.

The chamber, however, appreciated the simplification of price declaration procedure, VAT Act and rules.

It also lauded the introduction of online VAT registration procedure and submission of returns.

"However, imposition of VAT on any transaction not involving value addition, such as rentals on business premises is wrong, onerous and raises the cost of doing business," it said.

Moreover, there had been no mention of introducing any provision for rationalising the tax structure in line with the recommendations of the Tax Reforms Commission, the MCCI said.

"There are several provisions for changes in tax administration. These ought to be reviewed in consultation with the stakeholders so as to eliminate harassment of taxpayers."

The budget framed against the backdrop of global economic recession aims to stimulate local demand, protect certain domestic industries and deliver a wide range of social safety measures to improve the economic condition of people, the statement said.

It appreciated the proposal for increasing allocations in energy, agriculture and rural economy, education, human resources development, IT,

health, local government, and social safety nets.

The MCCI however felt the government's implementation capacity need to be developed to accelerate the development of human resources and the energy sector.

A coal policy needs to be announced immediately, underscoring the use of open pit mining to harness a valuable resource the country possesses.

Since economic development hinges on gas and power, the chamber felt the bottlenecks in the sector should be eliminated immediately.

The implementation of PPP projects continues to be limited in the absence of a clear government policy, it observed.

The chamber said the proposed investments in physical and social infrastructure will help improve the quality of people's lives and create job opportunities.

It also welcomed the announcement of a Tk 2,000 crore stimulus package for the recession-hit export sector, and the proposal to revise the Companies Act.

NBR fixes

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endangered species of plants and animals, and other commodities with a ban on their import will not be allowed for transhipment or transit.

Officers of Bangladesh customs must know, and will have the authority to check what goods are being transhipped or in transit, the SRO specifies.

Wherever the Bangladesh authorities have the goods scanning facility, at those entry points the goods must be scanned. Customs commissioners will also be authorised to carry out physical examination of the goods through random samplings, the SRO adds.

Growth target

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The think tank also warned the government about the soaring inflation, saying it may not be within the projected 6.5 percent.

The CPD, however, said the size of the budget set at Tk 132,170 crore is pragmatic, considering the country's population and economy.

But the main challenge is in implementation, it said in the analysis.

"We don't think it's a big budget, but the government will have to show that this budget is implemented," said Rahman.

The CPD made the observations a day after Finance Minister AMA Muhith placed the Tk 132,170 crore budget, including Tk 38,500 crore development outlay, for the coming fiscal year.

In its analysis, the think tank said adequate focus has been given to boost investment and improve the constraining bottlenecks for energy and infrastructure.

The CPD said the proposed budget also continued fiscal policies of the outgoing one and maintained efforts to mitigate the impacts of global financial crisis by extending stimulus package for the export-oriented industries.

It, however, suggested timely disbursement of the stimulus money to enhance competitiveness of the export sector.

The CPD also praised the roadmap proposed by the finance minister on energy and power sector to add 9,500 megawatts of electricity by 2015.

"We think it's all right," said the CPD executive director, referring to the allocation for power and energy.

There is an absence of an integrated policy and institutional shape for public-private partnership (PPP) projects, the think tank said and suggested large investment for infrastructure development.

Nothing some projects such as Dhaka elevated expressway that has been proposed under the PPP, Rahman said the government should take the responsibility of executing some projects if these cannot be done under the PPP.

"There are some projects for which there is no scope to wait and have patience," he said.

The proposed budget over-

Criminal killed

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and the other five managed to flee, the ASP said.

The injured were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Dulal's family sources said neighbour Shahidul hired the gang to kill Dulal following a land dispute between the two.

Officer in Charge of Sattaria Police Station Mazharul Haque said police suspect Shahidul for the incident.

Bank borrowing

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overpasses, the DCCI said it thinks these measures are too inadequate to cope with the situation.

"DCCI feels that these will not be enough in managing the ever-increasing traffic load of Dhaka city, which is considered a factor that has contributed to the high cost of doing business in Bangladesh and to the huge loss of working hour," it said in a press statement following a meeting of its directors and other business representatives at its office yesterday.

The Dhaka chamber proposed introduction of congestion taxes on the movement of vehicles within the city and allocation of a Tk 5,000 crore exclusive fund to improve the traffic system. It also urged the government to establish a separate railway ministry for better railways, which may reduce the load on roads.

It lauded the government for prioritising the power and energy sector, but stressed timely execution of the development projects meant for the sector.

The business body hailed the Tk 3,000 crore allocation on public-private partnership initiatives. The chamber insisted on finalisation of the PPP legal framework at the earliest.

"In order to promote Digital Bangladesh, we proposed reduction in SIM tax and withdrawal of all types of duties from telecom equipment, but this has not been reflected in the budget," the DCCI said.

It asked for raising the individual taxable income ceiling to at least Tk 2 lakh a year.

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President MA Latif MP lauded the budget saying it will help the local industries, agriculture and social safety nets.

However, he requested the government to reconsider the proposed rise in the import duty on non-refined or refined sugar, and to waive duty on microbus and mini trucks of up to 1500 CC, as these are used to transport essential commodities.

Tree felling

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demanded of the authorities concerned to stop it.

Dr Shamsul Alam Selim, Prof Mozammel Haque, Rihan Rain, Jamal Uddin Runu, among others, took part in the sit-in programme.

SQ Chy sued

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provided to the candidates.

Voter list with photographs is available at the district election office, but there were no photographs of the voters in the CDs provided to the candidates, said the plaintiff in the case.

Such "false allegation" about voter list hampers peaceful polling atmosphere and is a punishable offence according to the Voter List Act 2009, the election officer said.

Assistant Commissioner (Kotwali Zone) Helal Uddin of Chittagong Metropolitan police said there is a provision of awarding maximum six months' imprisonment or financial penalty of Tk 2,000 or both for violation of the act.

"We will take necessary legal action after investigation," he added.

SQ Chowdhury at his residence told the newsmen early yesterday that he earlier said about only 55,000 voters, but there was no photograph of any voter of the total 17 lakh voters in the CDs provided by the election office.

"If they (EC) have photographs how could I know this," SQ Chowdhury said adding that the election commission could have issued a notice to him before filing the case.

Another victim

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Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

While visiting the Nimtoli victims at CMH, Samantlal Sen yesterday said a female victim there was in a critical condition.

He said the doctors of the hospital had been trying their best to help heal the survivors.

A total of 20 victims -- 10 each at CMH and DMCH, are still fighting injuries.

Another 12-year-old victim Ijja died at CMH Thursday night.

A total of 14 victims were transferred from DMCH Burn Unit to CMH the next day of the devastating fire. Over a hundred people were injured in the blaze.

Doctors said the injured survivors have to suffer long as major portions of their bodies were severely burned. Some of them may become physically disabled, while some may face other complexities, they added.

Japan unfurls Ikaros solar sail in space

BBC News

Japanese scientists are celebrating the successful deployment of their solar sail, Ikaros.

The 200-sq-m (2,100-sq-ft) membrane is attached to a small disc-shaped spacecraft that was put in orbit last month by an H-IIA rocket.

Ikaros will demonstrate the principle of using sunlight as a simple and efficient means of propulsion.

The technique has long been touted as a way of moving spacecraft around the Solar System using no chemical fuels.

The mission team will be watching to see if Ikaros produces a measurable acceleration, and how well its systems are able to steer the craft through space.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Jaxa) said in a statement that its scientists and engineers had begun to deploy the solar sail on 3 June (JST).

On 10 June, Jaxa said, confirmation was received that the sail had expanded successfully. Some thin-film solar cells embedded in the membrane were even generating power, it added.

The principle of solar sailing is a simple one. Photons, or particles of light, falling on a highly reflective, ultra-thin (in this case, just 7.5 microns) surface will exert a pressure.

The force is tiny but continuous, and over time should produce a considerable velocity.

Solar sails will never replace conventional propulsion systems like chemical thrusters, but they do have the potential to play a much greater role in certain types of space mission.

Louis Friedman, from the space advocacy group The Planetary Society, is a big supporter of the technology. The society's LightSail-1, a much smaller mission than Ikaros, could launch by the year's end. He told BBC News recently: "The potential that we all seek is the ultra-lightweight, very fast spacecraft that doesn't use fuel."

"That's the future of interstellar travel; that's the long-term goal. The intermediate goals are to be able to use this technology to 'hover' in interplanetary space at particular points for monitoring, say, the Sun or monitoring the Earth's geomagnetic poles or magneto-tail; and then also to fly

Education cost

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families will feel the crunch if the tuition fees are upped, they said.

The authorities and owners of private universities think this move would badly affect around 2 lakh students pursuing higher education in the country's 52 private universities.

They said as the government puts highest emphasis on education it should not impose any VAT on education sectors.

On June 10, Finance Minister AMA Muhith in his budget speech proposed withdrawal of VAT exemption from private universities.

In its post budget analysis, the Centre for Policy Dialogue said VAT at the rate of 4.5 percent will be imposed on private universities and English medium schools that are likely to increase the cost of education since this tax burden will finally go to the guardians of students.

The Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) leaders said the decision would shrink the scope of higher education instead of widening it.

The students have to bear some of the burden of the move and so the government should not charge the private universities any VAT, said CM Shafi Sami, chairman of APUB.

"Since it is the education sector and the private universities are non-profit organisations, we hope the government would not impose VAT on the private universities in view of the interest of the students," the APUB chairman told The Daily Star.

Abul Quasem Haider, vice-chairman of APUB, said the students would have to bear the cost if VAT is finally levied on the private universities.

"Why should the private universities pay VAT when the public universities are out of the VAT net?" Haider said.

Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of University Grants Commission, suggests that the tuition fees of the students be adjusted if the move is made.

Jahangir Hossain, a student of a private university, said it would be tough to bear the financial burden if the universities raise their tuition fees following imposition of VAT.

between the planets without using fuel."

Already some satellites in geostationary orbit above the Earth use flaps on the ends of their solar panels to catch the pressure of sunlight to maintain their correct attitude.

This leads to a considerable saving on the fuel that would otherwise have to be sent surging through the satellites' thrusters, and operators have found this strategy can extend the longevity of some missions by many months.

Deploying a large membrane in space is a challenging task, however.

The circular Ikaros was launched with the sail wrapped around it. The plan was to unbutton the four weighted corners of the membrane and allow them to fly outwards as the central module turned. This was expected to pull the sail taut. A camera mounted on the central hub of Ikaros confirmed the sail had indeed been drawn flat.

Japanese scientists must now hope they can control this huge spinning film. If instabilities develop in the sail, it could start to bend and fold, ruining the experiment.

Ikaros was a piggy-back payload to Japan's Venus orbiter, Akatsuki.

The pair were boosted in to space on 21 May (JST) from the Tanegashima Space Center.

Akatsuki will arrive at Venus in December. Key goals include finding definitive evidence for lightning and for active volcanoes.

Budget

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Muhith said he had long hinted there would not be anything new in the budget for the upcoming year, and that it would largely be a follow-up to the previous one.

The measures laid out in the current year's budget have been consolidated in the proposed outlay, he continued.

Arguing for reintroducing import duties on refined and non-refined sugar, he said it will not affect the prices of sugar on the local market.

The budget unveiled on Thursday proposes a Tk 4,000 duty on refined sugar (per tonne) and Tk 2,000 on non-refined.

Muhith said the proposal to increase tariff on cars that are mainly used by the middle class is to encourage the local industries and reduce traffic jam on the roads.

On the issue of black money, he said the money-whitening opportunity will be over after June 30. "We don't want black money or underground economy anymore."

The finance minister said he believes the public-private partnership projects will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year, as the government has already been working to draw up a guideline