

BE SAFE BSRM

**THE SAFEST STEEL IN BANGLADESH TO WITHSTAND CYCLONIC FORCE AND EARTHQUAKES**  
The only steel that ensures Elongation at maximum force

Do consult a professional engineer if you decide to build a house.

**BSRM Xtreme**  
Feel safe with Xtreme Inside

**Philips 40" LED TV at Tk. 8,612\***  
Up to 18 Equal Monthly Installments available at 0% Interest

**PHILIPS**

For More Information:  
8855366-8, 01712-665463

\*Conditions apply

0% Interest for 12 Months  
3% Interest for 12 Months  
Flexi Flexi 18 Months

**TRANSCOM**  
DIGITAL  
think electronics... think DIGITAL

**GDP growth target 7pc**  
10pc by 2017

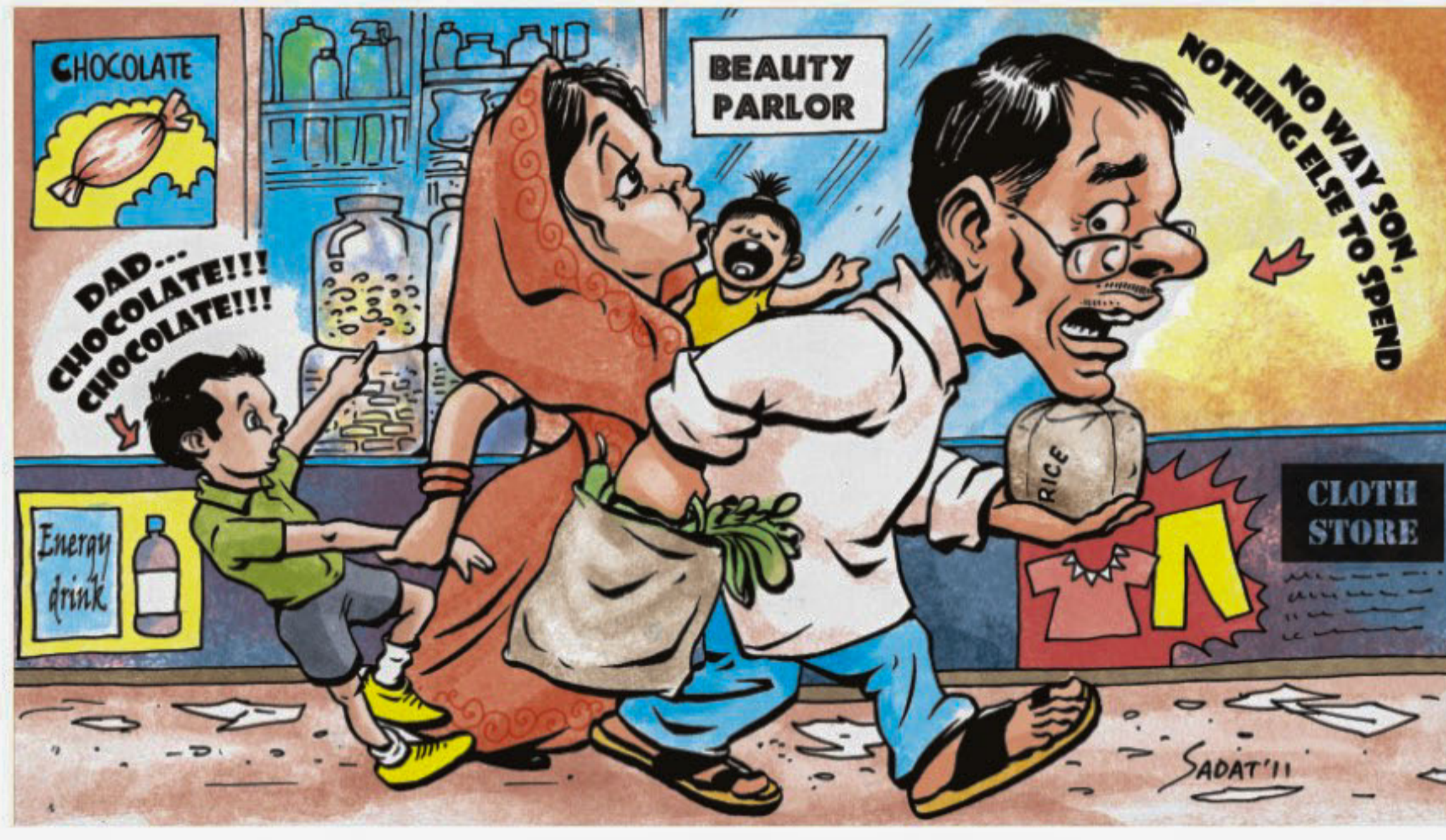
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will be able to achieve seven percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the next fiscal year provided the country can effectively manage internal and external setbacks.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith gave the estimate yesterday forecasting an eight percent growth in 2014-2015.

The country's GDP grew by 6.1 percent in 2009-10 and the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



**BUDGET OF MIDDLECLASS**

**Time to tighten belt further**

PINAKI ROY

Last year Abidur Rahim missed most of the budget speech. So this year he finished work early and rushed to catch a bus home. It is now a regular pain for him being in the queue for bus. After waiting 30 minutes or so he got on a bus heading to Pallabi, Mirpur.

The fare was Tk 18 just three weeks ago but now it is Tk 23. Abidur has to pay almost Tk 300 for rides to and from work every month.

He misses his motorbike a lot. He had sold his motorbike, leased out two sets of his wife's gold ornaments,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



**MF Husain no more**

BBC ONLINE

One of India's most famous artists, Maqbool Fida Husain, died yesterday in a hospital in London aged 95 after years of self-imposed exile.

He had been unwell for several months.

MF Husain was India's

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

**Anti-graft drive hoodwinked**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith's comments yesterday on combating corruption were full of hoodwinking.

Identifying corruption as "one of the main impediments to development", the minister said, "In order to play an effective role in combating corruption, we have finalised the Anti-Corruption Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010 and submitted it to parliament for approval."

The irony is that individuals and organisations fighting corruption have rejected the proposed amendments outright. They have observed that half of the ten amendments would diminish independence of the anti-graft

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

**Tax-free import to make essentials affordable**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance minister yesterday proposed continuation of zero duty on imports of basic commodities, bigger food stock and strengthened TCB as measures to keep food market stable.

He proposed continuation of duty-free facility for import of rice, pulses, wheat, sugar, edible oil and onion. Major import-based commodities like these became pricy

over the last one year due to high prices in the global market and depreciation of taka.

A litre of unpackaged soybean oil sold at Tk 107-110 yesterday in the capital where it was Tk 71-74 a litre a year ago. It means prices of edible oil spiralled up by 50 percent since Muhith placed the budget for fiscal 2010-11 pledging zero duty import benefit.

So prices of essentials are not likely to come down unless they drop in the international market.

For the price-hit consumers, the only respite is that the traders will not raise prices of basic commodities blaming import duty.

Muhith this time as well proposed strengthening the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) for

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

**Edn gets raise, needs more**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

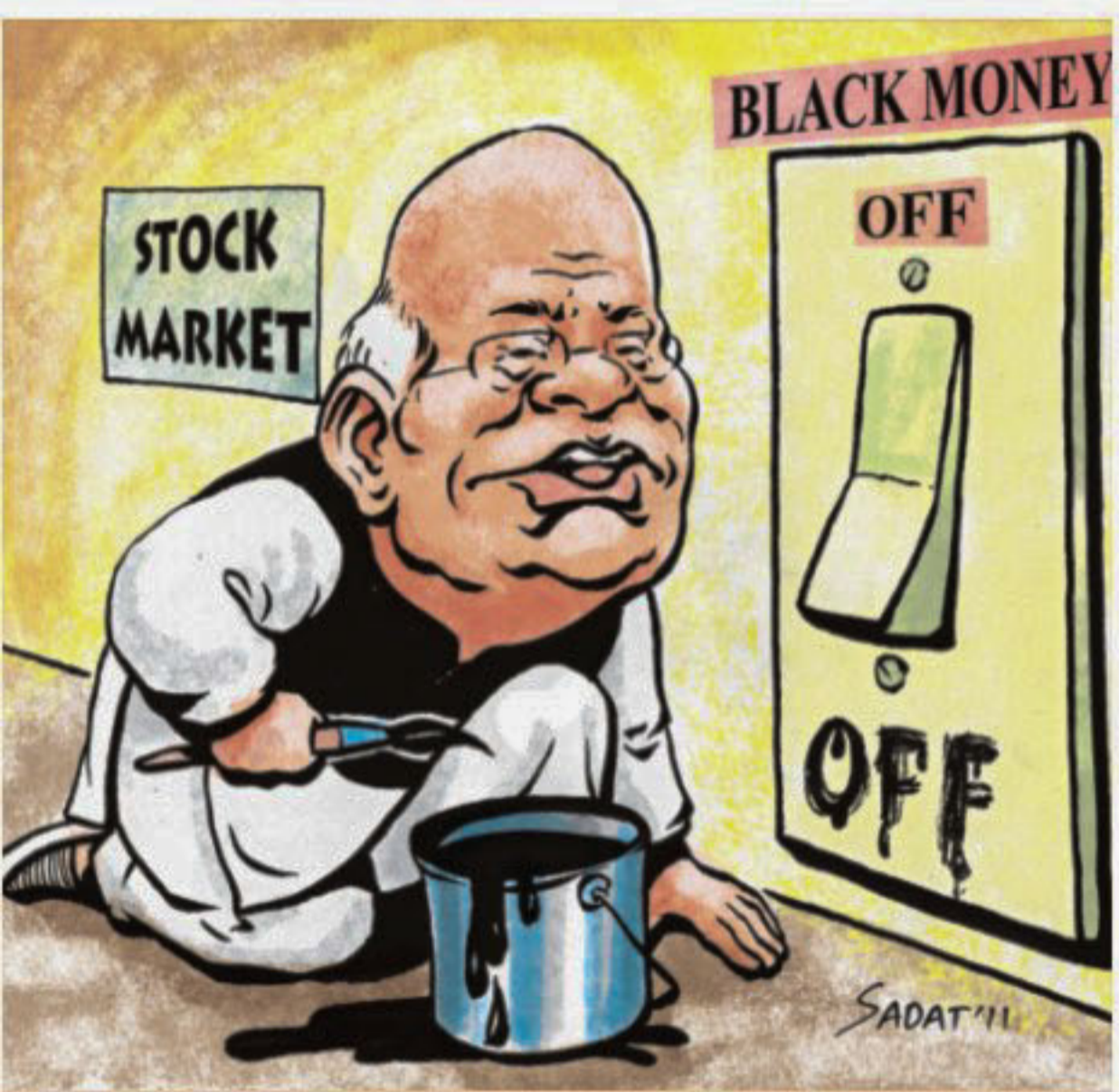
The finance minister has proposed a 10 percent raise for the education sector in the national budget for the upcoming fiscal year highlighting the need for improving the quality of education and easing the disparity between urban and rural areas.

In his budget proposals placed in parliament yesterday AMA Muhith set aside Tk 19,837 crore for education sector in fiscal year 2011-12, up by 10 percent from the outgoing year's Tk 17,959 crore.

The allocation has disappointed educationists.

"The allocation for the sector is not as high as we expected," Rasheda K Choudhury, a former caretaker

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



**Stocks denied black money**

Scope only given for investment in infrastructure fund for a year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has allowed whitening money through investment only in infrastructure funds and treasury bonds, not in the stock market or any other sector.

"To make the government bond market popular, I propose that investment in BIFFL [Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited] or Treasury Bond be accepted without any question subject to payment of tax at the rate of 10 percent," AMA Muhith said in his

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**OVER Tk 2CR ASSET Confusion over 10pc surcharge**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under the income tax rate section of the proposed budget, it is mentioned that the government has proposed to impose 10 percent surcharge on the tax payable based on the net wealth above Tk 2 crore.

Noted economist Prof

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**COMMUNICATIONS BUDGET Roads get priority, waterways ignored**

TAWFIQUE ALI

The new budget has allocated fund and prioritised the integration and maintenance of road network while almost ignored the waterway and railway barring some patchy improvements, said economists.

It focuses on resolving Dhaka's perennial traffic congestion with elevated expressway, Jatrabari-Gulsitan (Mayor Hanif) flyover, Mirpur-Airport Road flyover, Kuril interchange and railway overpasses at Banani and Jurain level crossings.

It also envisaged circular road, rail and waterway net

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

**SIM tax reduced**

ABDULLAH MAMUN

Mobile phone operators are not happy with government's proposal to reduce the duty on SIM cards to Tk 600 from Tk 800.

Government also proposed to impose \$0.55 and \$0.65 taxes on 32kb (kilobyte) and 64kb storage capacity SIM

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

**No more push for PPP initiative**

Allocation remains at Tk 3,000cr

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The government has retained Tk 3,000 crore allocation for Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative for the next fiscal year despite lower-than-expected progress in finalising projects in the outgoing fiscal year.

In addition to the budgetary allocation, the government has already provided Tk 1,600 crore to implement various projects in power, energy, roads and railway sectors, said the finance minister in his budget speech yesterday.

Of Tk 3,000 crore, the government has

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Limon is being taken from Nitor to Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in the city yesterday.

**Limon's arms case trial starts**

The maimed student shifted from Nitor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The trial of Limon Hossain in an arms case started in a special tribunal of Jhalakathi yesterday.

On March 23, a Rapid Action Battalion team shot college student Limon in the left leg during a manhunt for notorious crime leader Morshed in a Jhalakathi village.

The same day, the elite force fired two cases against him for possessing illegal firearms, and obstructing law

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the government has failed miserably in the economic sector?

Yes (66.4%)  
No (31.8%)  
No Comments (1.8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 566

**TODAY'S POLL**

How do you look at the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-2012?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING** June 10

Fajr	4:05	4:40
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:45	6:50
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Prices of Otobi Chairs will increase just after 2 weeks**

**upto 35% discount until the stock ends.**

Tk. 3,900	Tk. 4,875	Tk. 7,203	Tk. 7,616	Tk. 11,499	Tk. 14,084
Tk. 6,080	Tk. 9,280	Tk. 10,290	Tk. 10,880	Tk. 17,890	Tk. 20,420
Tk. 5,236	Tk. 6,202	Tk. 6,260	Tk. 6,689	Tk. 9,159	Tk. 11,178
Tk. 7,480	Tk. 8,880	Tk. 9,680	Tk. 10,290	Tk. 14,890	Tk. 18,630

otobi evolves around you