

Custodial death

FROM PAGE 20
he was taken to the emergency unit.

The death of Shamim, son of Abdul Halim Sarkar of Hemayetpur, comes only about two weeks after the custodial death of a youth in Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj.

Contacted by the family over the phone at 2:00am yesterday, police said if the money was not paid, they would implicate Shamim in such serious crimes that he would face ten years' imprisonment, the victim's brother Amin Sarkar said.

At about 8:00am, relatives along with some locals went to Savar Police Station but got no information about him.

Around 11:00am, they came to know from a Savar police source that there was an unidentified body at Mitford Hospital. They went to the hospital around noon and identified the body as Shamim's.

After the news of the death spread yesterday, locals blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway by burning tyres and vandalising at least 20 vehicles. They also beat up a constable.

The two-hour blockade caused immense sufferings for people as they had to walk in the rain.

The highway was freed after the victim's nephew Sohel was released. The Daily Star could not reach him.

Around 11:30pm yesterday, Amin Sarkar filed a murder case with Savar Police Station accusing five policemen of murder.

TORTURE?
The magistrate's inquest report has found injury marks on different parts of this body, including his eyes, hands and legs.

Superintendent of Police of Dhaka district Habibur Rahman told The Daily Star preliminary investigation had found that Shamim died in police custody.

No action has been taken against any police official as it will be clear following the post-mortem whether any torture was committed, he added.

Contacted, Mostafa Kamal, officer-in-charge of Savar Police Station, said Shamim was rushed to Mitford Hospital as he fell ill before being taken to the police station. He also claimed Shamim was arrested in a robbery case filed with the police station on March 2.

"Shamim remained absconding before he was arrested from Hemayetpur CNG Station at night," the official added.

The body was handed over to the family after post-mortem at Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue.

Cheaper

FROM PAGE 20
5 percent from the existing 12 percent.

The existing duty and tax structure on private vehicles, formulated in fiscal 2009-10 and 2010-11, is set to continue into the next year.

The customs duty on completely built minibus units would continue to be 12 percent. However, to encourage the domestic bus building industry, the government has proposed reducing the duty on imports of minibus chassis to 10 percent from the current 25 percent.

Time for further

FROM PAGE 20
after sipping tea. But this time he really wants to quit smoking, for prices of cigarettes, too, will go up.

Shahana joined him with two cups of tea.

"So we are not going out for dinner tonight?" Shahana demanded, reminding her husband of their plan to go out with the kids.

"Not just dinner outside, it seems we have to give up all our little luxuries as living costs are increasing," Abidur replied.

But he is just one among the millions of middle income people whose lives will be badly affected by the price hike of some daily items.

Ceiling

FROM PAGE 1
other areas including villages.

The proposals have been made, taking into consideration the prevailing inflation, rising living expenses and the necessity to reduce tax liability of marginal taxpayers, the finance minister said in his budget speech.

Six Points and June 7, 1966

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On February 5, 1966, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, general secretary of the East Pakistan Awami League, revealed in Lahore a broad-ranging formula for regional autonomy. That formula was the Six Point plan, which in time would lead to a wider movement and eventually an armed struggle for East Pakistan's emergence as the independent People's Republic of Bangladesh. The plan put Mujib and a large section of Bengali Awami Leaguers on a collision course with the All-Pakistan Awami League led by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. It also aroused the fury of Field Marshal Mohammad Ayub Khan, who openly threatened to use what he called the language of weapons against the proponents of the Six Points. In Ayub's view, the plan would lead to Pakistan's break-up with the secession of its eastern province from the rest of the country. Foreign Minister Z.A. Bhutto challenged Mujib to a public debate on the Six Points at Dhaka's Paltan Maidan. Tajuddin Ahmed accepted the challenge. In the event, Bhutto did not turn up.

The Six Points, which the East Pakistan Awami League formally adopted on 18 March 1966, were the following:

1. Pakistan will be a federation in the true sense on the basis of the Lahore Resolution of March 1940, with the form of government being parliamentary in nature and elected through universal adult franchise;

2. The federal government shall deal with only two subjects, namely, foreign affairs and defence, with all other subjects to be handled by the federating units;

3. Two separate but freely convertible currencies for the two wings of Pakistan may be introduced or a single currency be used, with guarantees that there will be no flight of capital from East to West Pakistan, the guarantees being in the form of a separate reserve bank for East Pakistan;

4. Powers of taxation and revenue collection shall vest in the federating units, with the federal government to be provided with its share of taxes through levies of a certain percentage from all state taxes;

5. There shall be two separate accounts for foreign exchange earnings for the two wings;

6. A separate paramilitary force shall be set up for East Pakistan.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury played a highly visible and prominent role as he prepared the demoralized party for the strike. The hartal was observed in totality throughout East Pakistan. Following the hartal, the AL decided, formally on July 23-24, to launch the second phase of the movement in August. Amena Begum, secretary of the women's branch of the Awami League, launched the second phase at a public meeting on August 17, 1966 in Chittagong. In the same month, she and Syed Nazrul Islam embarked on a tour of the province as part of a campaign to popularize the Six Point programme.

Tax, more tax

FROM PAGE 20

Listed telecom operators, with only Grameenphone now in the market, will have to pay 40 percent corporate tax, up from 35 percent now.

But many of his measures, such as extension of tax breaks and benefits of reduced tax for the next two years to June 30, 2015, will boost domestic industries. Muhith also rolled out a host of other measures including higher duty on finished products and reduced duty on raw materials imports.

Although he raised the tax-free income limit for individual taxpayers to Tk 2.2 lakh from Tk 2 lakh, inflation will eat into the benefits.

The minister recommended cutting the existing minimum tax to Tk 2,000 from Tk 3,000 for people in district towns and for taxpayers in suburbs and villages --

from Tk 3,000 to Tk 1,000.

But the minimum tax for taxpayers living in metropolitan areas remains unchanged.

"Such reduction in payment of minimum tax, I believe, would motivate the taxpayers in the rural areas to pay tax with effectual impact in widening the tax net," Muhith said.

He made an attempt to make big businesses happy by keeping corporate tax largely unchanged.

DUTY MEASURES
Muhith left the existing duty-structure largely untouched as he cut duties only in two areas. He reduced import duty from 3 percent to 2 percent on capital machinery and from 12 percent to 10 percent on intermediate raw materials.

But importers of finished goods will continue to pay 5

Await twin tests

FROM PAGE 1

The budget does not spell out any measure to give momentum to the sluggish economy, Akbar said, rather it is intended to make happy various interest groups through various measures.

The finance minister in his budgetary speech said inflation, now at 7.9 percent, would not go up in the next fiscal year but gave an explanation on the basis of assumptions, he said.

The reality is when shut-downs are enforced, they disrupt transport sector and as a result the prices of essentials go up, he added, hinting at the possibility of more hartals by the opposition before the next polls.

Zaid Bakht, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, echoed Akbar's views about the challenges.

He, however, said he did not think the budget was ambitious as "it has just maintained the historic growth in size."

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the proposed growth of revenue earning is higher than that of the expenditure, which is very necessary.

However, the tendency to borrow more from the banking sector to finance the budget deficit has continued, which is worrisome.

The revenue earning target, which is 19.89 percent higher than that of the outgoing fiscal, may go up to 22 to 24 percent as the National Board of Revenue may fail to collect revenue as estimated for 2012-13, Debapriya said.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research

Institute of Bangladesh, said the revenue target is in line with the planned expenditure.

"The strategy, however, carries risks," he said, adding that if the minister goes ahead with his spending plan but revenue does not flow in accordingly, questions will arise whether the budget is unrealistic.

"It will also affect our fiscal management."

Mansur also said the budget had been made considering the next parliamentary elections to some extent.

He said the scope for money whitening was an old issue and unfortunately that remained. "But neither the economy nor the government has benefited from it."

M o h a m m a d Farashuddin, former governor of Bangladesh Bank,

preferred sales of savings instruments among the people to finance the budget deficit over borrowing from the central bank or the banking system.

To some, pre-election political issues are seen as the main obstacles to implementation of the budget.

Mirza Azizul Islam, a former finance adviser, said fixing political troubles would be the key to implementing the budget.

"People are uncertain about the political situation in the next one year."

If political stability is not ensured, Bangladesh will fail to attain the expected gross domestic product (GDP) and to control inflation. Besides, the country also will not be able to create employment and encourage investment, Mirza Azizul said.

Green budget

FROM PAGE 20

The government has also reduced the allocation for the Climate Change Trust Fund to Tk 255 crore. This fiscal year, it was Tk 400 crore.

The government has approved 194 small-scale and pilot projects that are intended to reduce climate change vulnerability and will be implemented by different agencies.

Only 19 of the projects have been completed while another 96 were in progress last month, an official from the government-formed climate change cell told The Daily Star.

Besides, Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund has been created with the assistance from development partners. The total amount of aid to this fund so far is \$ 189.5 million.

Muhith's statements about the curbing of river water pollution, the shifting of tannery industries from Hazaribagh, navigability and afforestation seemed a repetition of what he had said in his last three years' budget speeches.

The government, however, has allocated Tk 16,916.89 crore for the Ministry of Food, Disaster Management and Relief in the budget.

It has approved the National Disaster Management Plan 2010-2015 with a view to strengthening disaster management.

The government is building 74 flood shelters in areas prone to flood and river erosion, Muhith noted. A disaster management plan and guidelines are underway at 276 unions in 34 districts as part of a national programme.



BANGLADESH ARMY TENDER NOTICE

(Shipment of Logistic Re-Supply By Sea and Road)

1. Sealed Quotations are invited from bonafied Shipping Agencies/Freight Forwarding Agencies authorized by IATA/ FIATA/ACAB for transportation of 164 (40'20' ISO Containers, APC/ARV, Fuel/Water Bowser, Freezer Van, Freezer Container, Tank Transporter/Low-Bed Trailer, CRANE, ROAD ROLLER, TRK DUMPER, MOTOR GRADER, WHEEL LOADER, TRK DOZER and WATER TLR) Containers and other items of Bangladesh Army by sea and road for logistic re-supply to Bangladesh Military Contingents deployed in United Nations Mission in different countries of Africa with details mentioned as below:

Ser	Name of UN Mission and Country	Destination Port/ Country	Size and No of ISO Containers/ Other Items	Tentative Route	Remarks
1.	UNMIS (Juba, Sudan)	Juba, Sudan	01 x 40', 02 x 20', 22 x APC/ARV, 01 x Fuel/Water Bowser, 01x Freezer Van, 01 x Freezer Container, 01 x Tank Transporter/Low-Bed-Trailer, 01x Crane, 02X Roller, 01 X Trk Dumper, 01X Motor Grader, 03 X Wheel Loader, 01X Water Tlr and 01 X Trk Dozer	By sea up to Mombassa, Kenya and then by road through Uganda to Juba, Sudan.	1. General, Dangerous (DG) and Other Items. 2. Size and other necessary information will be mentioned in Tender Schedule.
2.	UNOCI (Ivory Coast)	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	08 x 40', 08 x 20', 02 x 40' Open', 02 x 20' Open, 10 x APC/ARV, 02 x Fuel/Water Bowser, 02x Freezer Van, 02 x Freezer Container, 02 x Tank Transporter/Low-Bed-Trailer, 01x Crane, 01X Roller, 05 X Trk Dumper, 01X Motor Grader, 01 X Wheel Loader, 01X Water Tlr and 01 X Trk Dozer	By sea	
3.	MONUSCO (DR Congo)	Bunia, DR Congo Mahagi, DR Congo Walungo, DR Congo	08 x 40', 08 x 20', 02 x 40' Open', 02 x 20' Open, 06 x APC/ARV, 02 x Fuel/Water Bowser, 02x Freezer Van, 02 x Freezer Container, 02 x Tank Transporter/Lo-Bed-Trailer, 01x Crane, 01X Roller, 02 X Trk Dumper, 01X Motor Grader, 02 X Wheel Loader, 01X Water Tlr and 01 X Trk Dozer	By sea up to Mombassa, Kenya and then by road through Uganda to DR Congo.	3. Separate quotation to be submitted for Bunia, Mahagi and Walungo, DR Congo.
4.	UNMIL (Liberia)	Monrovia, Liberia	03 x 40', 03 x 20', 01 x 40' Open', 01 x 20' Open, 01 x Fuel/Water Bowser, 01x Freezer Van, 01 x Freezer Container, 01 x Tank Transporter/Low-Bed-Trailer and 02x Crane, 02X Roller, 02 X Trk Dumper, 02X Motor Grader, 02 X Wheel Loader, 02X Water Tlr and 01 X Trk Dozer	By sea	
5.	UNAMID (Darfur, Sudan)	Darfur, Sudan	02 x 40', 02 x 20', 02x40' Open and 02 x20' Open	By sea up to Port Sudan and then by road through El-Obeid to Nyala, Darfur. Or By sea up to Port Mombassa, Kenya and then by road through Uganda/Kenya to Darfur Sudan.	

2. Aforementioned quantity and size of containers and other items (40'20' APC/ARV, Fuel/Water Bowser, Freezer Van, Freezer Container, Tank Transporter/Low-Bed Trailer), Crane, Road Roller, Trk Dumper, Motor Grader, Wheel Loader, Trk Dozer and Water Tlr in para 1 may vary basing on the stock position of goods and requirements of the concerned mission.

3. Tender schedules (separately for each above mentioned destination) are available in Movement & Quartering Directorate, Army Headquarters, Dhaka Cantonment, which can be collected during working hours (0800 to 1400 hours) from 09 June 2013 to 10 July 2013 on cash payment of Taka: 1000/- (One Thousand only) which is non-refundable for each schedule from following addressee:

DADMQ (Move External)
AHQ, QMG's Branch
M&Q Directorate
Dhaka Cantonment
Tel: 8750011 - 48 extension -2650
E Mail: mqdte.emov@gmail.com

4. Offers to be submitted latest by 1200 hours on 11 July 2013 in the tender box available at Army Head Quarter, Administrative Wing. The same tender box will be opened in presence of representatives of tenderer (if any) by a Board of Officers at 1205 hours on the same day. Tender Notice will also be available at www.army.mil.bd.

5. Firms/Agencies having similar works experience in the past will be considered as an added qualification.

6. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without showing any reason whatsoever.

ISPR/Army/2013/1965

GD-2291

Director
M & Q Directorate
QMG's Branch
AHQ, Dhaka Cantonment

Huge interest

FROM PAGE 20

estimated cost of the Padma Bridge project.

Budget documents show most of these payments will go for meeting domestic borrowing costs as foreign debt is declining over the years. Interest payments on foreign debt for fiscal 2013-14 have been projected at around Tk 1,800 crore.

"Interest payments are rising as the government cannot avail low-cost foreign funds," said Zaid Bakht, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

He said borrowing from domestic sources, both banking and non-banking sources, was costly and pushing the interest burden up.

"This was the reason why interest payments figure went up to Tk 28,000 crore for the outgoing year instead of a budgetary target of Tk 23,392 crore," said Zaid.

He advised the government to go for utilising \$12 billion [Tk 90,000 crore] foreign aid that was in the pipeline for years.

Of the Tk 55,032 crore budget deficit proposed for the new fiscal, Tk 21,068 crore will be financed from external sources and Tk 33,964 crore from domestic sources, mostly bank borrowing.

The budget for fiscal 2013-14 proposed Tk 15,352 crore for subsidies excluding the allocation for farm sector. Separately, Tk 9,000 crore has been allocated as agriculture subsidy, down by Tk 3,000 crore from the outgoing fiscal year.

Subsidy allocation for the outgoing year was Tk 38,808 crore, which includes subsidies for agriculture, power and energy sectors. The finance minister attributed this increase to payment of arrears accumulated over the last few years.

The minister also hinted for adjustment in the administered prices of electricity and fuel to harmonise these with international prices.

"May be the government has a plan to adjust energy prices in the coming year to reduce subsidy burden," Zaid observed.

Civil war destroying Syria's world heritage sites

TNN, London

Five of Syria's six world heritage sites have been severely damaged in the country's civil war.

This has been confirmed by UN investigators who just recently returned from Syria. Looting has ravaged historic sites, according to the investigations.

Byzantine mosaics in the "dead cities" of northern Syria and the Roman city of Apamea were removed. Interpol has now listed an 8th century BC Aramaic bronze statue, stolen from the Hama museum.

Both government forces and rebels are not respecting the country's cultural heritage with historic monuments being damaged and destroyed, said the report. The investigation report says the Syrian army has established bases in the ancient citadels of Aleppo, Homs and Hama. Anti-Government armed groups are based near the edges of Aleppo's citadel, placing it at risk of further damage.