



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Showbiz



TAGORE IN CANNES

American-born Hungarian filmmaker recreates the bard's Natir Puja (1932)

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EXTRAORDINARY SURVIVAL

Japanese boy, 7, found unharmed six days after being abandoned in the woods

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Ambitious targets set deliberately

Muhith says big budget planned as implementation capacity rises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said he deliberately set an ambitious revenue generation target in the upcoming budget, hoping for more tax collection by the National Board of Revenue.

"I have said in the budget speech that it is deliberately ambitious," he told reporters at a post-budget briefing in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Muhith said the NBR's revenue generation performance was "unfortunate" in the outgoing fiscal year.

"I think this institution has the capacity to move further up the ladder," he said, justifying the revenue generation growth target of 30 percent in the fiscal 2016-17.

Muhith was confident that the revenue target would be achieved.

The NBR's capacity had increased in the



last seven years, as its workforce rose by several thousands and it opened many offices at the upazila level, he said.

"I think the NBR has the capacity to deliver on the targets. I have set the target on the basis of NBR's strength."

The government formulated a plan so the revenue target could be reached, and the plan's implementation would start next month, said the minister.

In order to boost revenue collection, more NBR offices would be set up in phases at the upazila level. The NBR now has offices in 96 upazilas, according to him.

At 10.3 percent, Bangladesh has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios in the world.

"Only one or two countries are below Bangladesh. We have to change our habit and pay taxes instead of making a hue and cry about the services the government

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: RASHED SHUJON

Trucks cross the Bhakurta Steel Bridge over the Turag river on Sunday though a notice on the concrete bar says the bridge is risky, and forbids heavy vehicles from using it. The Daily Star published photos of this bridge twice in March and also ran a report pointing out the risk involved. Still, the authorities have apparently done nothing to repair it. About 30,000 residents of 27 villages in Bhakurta union of Savar use the bridge.

Muhith hints at further cut in fuel prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering a further fuel price cut to pass on to consumers the benefit of low fuel prices on the international market, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

"Reduction in fuel prices is an ongoing process," he told reporters during the post-budget briefing at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

"I have consulted the issue with the prime minister as she is the energy minister."

The finance minister

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Private investment biggest challenge

CPD says new industries, additional job creation badly needed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The challenge of attracting private investment remains as daunting as ever, as the proposed budget did not give any clear outline to mobilise additional private funds required to kick-start new industrial activities and to create the badly needed jobs, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) said in its reaction yesterday.

The GDP growth target for the next fiscal year has been set at 7.2 percent which, according to the CPD, is moderate compared to the provisional figure of 7.05 percent for the outgoing fiscal. However, to

achieve this private investment has to be 23.3 percent of the GDP or Tk 80,000 crore, which is 1.5 percentage points higher than the current level.

"But there is nothing in the budget about the source of this additional money," said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the CPD, in his presentation.

In his budget speech, Muhith said that during 2010-2015, 47 lakh people entered the labour market, 98 percent of them in the local market. But he did not mention that the pace of additional job creation in 2014 and 2015 came down to only 3 lakh a year

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



TOP! QUOTE

"Jobs are there in the informal sector, but not in corporate and industrial sectors. And that is not possible either without a rise in private investment."

DR DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA, DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF THE CPD, ABOUT FALLING INVESTMENT.

Final phase of UP polls today

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Another 698 union parishads (UPs) go to the polls in the sixth and final phase today, after the electioneering and voting days in all the previous phases were marked by irregularities and deadly violence.

The voting starts at 8:00am and continues till 4:00pm, said Election Commission (EC) officials.

Like all the other phases, fear of violence remains particularly high at the unions where the Awami League (AL) chairman candidates and its rebel aspirants are at loggerheads over the polls.

Both groups belong to the ruling party and are desperate to win. They are so desperate that they can even apply force, leading to more violence, fear experts.

The districts where the AL has its dissidents include Comilla, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Habiganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Shariatpur, Gaibandha, Pabna, Naogaon, and Jessore, report our correspondents.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Ctg MP sued for assaulting polls official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case has been filed against Chittagong-16 constituency ruling Awami League



Mustafizur

lawmaker Mustafizur Rahman Chowdhury and his two aides for allegedly assaulting an upazila election officer.

The victim, Zahidul Islam, has been shown as the complainant of the case that was filed on Thursday night, said Mohammad Alamgir, officer-in-charge of Banskhal Police Station.

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Untreated liquid industrial waste from a nearby dyeing factory regularly streams into this place in Godnail of Narayanganj. The toxic substance subsequently falls into the river Shitalakkhya and on its way contaminates soil. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh saw rise in attacks

Says US country report on terrorism 2015

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US state department has said although the number of terrorist attacks around the world declined last year, terror incidents went up significantly in Bangladesh.

"In 2015, Bangladesh experienced an increase in terrorist attacks against religious minorities and government installations and for the first time, transnational groups have claimed responsibility for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Reckless driving takes 10 lives

20 others injured as bus collides with truck in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Ten people were killed and 20 others injured in a head-on collision between a stone-laden truck and a bus in the district's Sherpur upazila yesterday.

Quoting some of the wounded, Gaziur Rahman, senior assistant superintendent of Bogra police (B circle and media), said the reckless driving and drowsiness of both the drivers caused the accident.

Nine of the deceased were bus passengers.

PHOTO ON PAGE 16

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PM reaches Jeddah

BSS, Jeddah

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was given a red-carpet reception as she arrived here yesterday on a five-day official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

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খোশ আমদেন

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