

NEWSIN brief

Tax burden excessive: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government had paved the path of "picking people's pocket" by imposing an excessive burden of tax on them through the proposed budget for fiscal 2017-2018.

He was also critical of the 15 percent uniform VAT.

"We are entangled in a tax network. The government will pick people's pocket and will fill its own by imposing the VAT," he told a programme, organised by Zia Smriti Pathagar at the party's Nayapaltan central office in the capital.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Five-month-old Md Abdullah, son of Abdur Rahman and Muslma Begum of Natun Bazar area in Patuakhali town, is suffering from congenital heart disease.

Abdullah was born with a hole in his heart. Now, he needs to be taken to Dr Devi Shetty in India for proper treatment which will cost at least Tk 6 lakh, said Rahman, quoting doctors who treated the baby in the capital.

So, the father, who is currently jobless, requested all to come forward to help the baby.

Financial assistance can be sent to Md Kamrul Islam, account no: 11697, Islami Bank Ltd, Patuakhali Branch. Cell no: 01740590145.

Lightning kills six in five districts

CITY DESK

Six people including a university student were killed by lightning in five districts on Thursday.

Harun Hasnat, 20, a law student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Science and Technology University and resident of Faridpur, was killed as a thunderbolt struck him when he went outside his campus on Thursday evening.

In Barguna, farmer Nasha Akon, 55, was killed while fishing, in Amtali upazila, yesterday. In the same upazila, electrician Rasel Gazi was killed while fishing Thursday night. In Chapainawabganj, Mohammad Rafique, 55, died when he went out to bring back his cattle Thursday evening.

In Pangsha of Rajbari, Ghadai Joarder, 30, was killed while bathing in the Gorai river in the afternoon. In Panchagarh's Debiganj, Ruksana Khatun, 35, was killed by a strike at her home Thursday night.

Not for mobile

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has been proposed from existing 5 percent, industry insiders said, adding that this was a clear contradiction that might disrupt government's planned digitisation process.

However, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, said this could create a short time problem. A solution is coming as finance minister also recommended cutting customs duty on materials for assembling the handsets, he said.

"Within a few years, we will be able to use handsets produced by us; then, cheap handsets will be available in the country," added Palak.

However, Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research Institute, said telecommunication is the most productive sector that shouldn't be hampered. "Let them grow first, revenue will come next."

Meanwhile, both mobile phone operators and importers feared incremental customs duty on import of mobile handsets might impact the industry and ultimately government's digitisation process.

Importers said the impact of new customs duty will be felt within a week.

TIM Nurul Kabir, secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh, said, "We are frustrated at the taxation proposal, which will be an obstacle to digitisation."

Ruhul Alam Al Mahbub Manik, president of Bangladesh Mobile Phone Importers Association, said they are also interested to establish mobile assembling plants. But it takes more than a year to establish a plant and an increase in duty will penalise end users.



Employees working on scrapped electric batteries on the yard of Gelli Industrial Company Ltd in Sreepur municipality, Gazipur, recently. According to locals, this factory recycles old and dead batteries and emits harmful substances like lead and spreads strong smells. Several people exposed to the nearby environment have complained of breathing problems, stomach ache, and blurry visions, they said. A week ago, a few students and a teacher of the adjacent Kewa Government Primary School fell sick and vomited, said head teacher Ruma Yesmin. There were environmental impacts on trees and cropland as well, locals said, adding they demanded relocation of the factory several times, but to no avail. A deputy director of the Department of Environment in Gazipur, Sonia Sultana, said the factory did not have environmental clearance. The factory authorities declined to speak to the newspaper.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE

Boost for digital projects

FROM PAGE 3
customs duty on imported software.

In the budget document, the finance minister said when they took office, export earnings were only a few million. In 2014, it crossed \$445 million.

It crossed more than \$700 million last year, said the industry leaders. "We have targeted to hit \$5 billion landmark in export earnings by 2021 and the allocation and taxation policies will help us achieve the goal before our estimated target," said Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, in a press conference yesterday about the proposed budget.

Like previous years, the finance minister also presented a separate book on the country's digitisation issues named "Advancement towards Digital Bangladesh: Situation 2017" on Thursday, where he said in 2008 internet penetration was 2.67 percent in the country, which increased to 41.52 percent as of February.

"The government is planning to increase internet penetration hundred percent by 2020...," said the finance minister.

To achieve the digitisation target, the government has already provided free internet to 6,600 madrasas and established 3,172 computer labs in the educational institutions.

To speed up service delivery, 265 public offices opened Facebook pages to receive complaints and share innovation. Some offices have YouTube channels as well for sharing ideas and information, said Muith.

The proposed budget allocation for ICT reaches Tk 3,974 crore from Tk 1,835. The division has spent all the money of their current allocation -- Palak termed it their success.

The budget also proposed including eight new sectors for tax holiday: software or application customisation, website development, website hosting, digital data analytics, software test lab services, overseas medical transcription, robotics process outsourcing and cyber security services.

বানিজ্যিক স্পেস আবশ্যক



আমেরিকার বিখ্যাত ফাস্ট ফুড চেইন বার্গার কিং এর জন্য ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম ও কক্ষবাজারে দীর্ঘমেয়াদি সময়ের জন্য স্পেস ভাড়া/ক্রয় করতে ইচ্ছুক। বিস্তারিত নিম্ন উল্লেখ করা হলঃ

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শুরুমাত্র প্রকৃত মালিকগণ ০১৭৫৫৬০৮১৮ (সকাল ১০:০০-বিকাল ৫:০০) যোগাযোগ করুন

ই-কেরিং: development@bkbdgladesh.com

Time Extension for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Turnkey Pharmaceutical Project

Original Published Date

The Prothom Alo & The Daily Star on 20 May 2017

Details of Amendment

Date and Time for availability of documents:

Up to June 19, 2017 between 8:30am to 3:00pm.

EOI Submission Date & Time:

20 June 2017 by 12.00pm

EOI Opening Date & Time:

20 June 2017 at 12.30pm

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

SMC ENTERPRISE LTD

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SMC Enterprise Ltd
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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শেখ হাসিনার মুলমন্ত্র

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sirajganj

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: LGED/XEN/SIRAJ/Tender/2017/1255

Date: 30/05/2017

e-IFT No: 33/16-17

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Tender ID No.: 105619, 105620, 105621, 105622, 105623 and 105624.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches for up to 12:00 noon on 21-06-2017.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Executive Engineer

LGED, Sirajganj

Tel: 0751-62207

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Email: makhan647@gmail.com

D-238

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2) Export Food Factory at Narayanganj.

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email: islam@capital-bd.com

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Baridhara

Diplomatic Zone

■ Adjacent to UN Road and Lake

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■ Rooftop Swimming Pool

■ Full Equipped AC GYM

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