

Budget aims to please all

'Limited rise' likely in tax rates as elections on the horizon

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

With the national elections only months away, Finance Minister AMA Muhith places the budget tomorrow for a record 10th consecutive time, aiming to please people from all segments of society.

The size of the budget to be placed in parliament at 12:30pm will be Tk 464,500 crore, 16 percent bigger than the current one.

The government will make some allocations for people-oriented programmes in the next budget, keeping in mind the parliamentary polls slated for December this year.

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- ▶ Corporate tax for banks likely to be slashed to 37.5% from 40%
- ▶ Another 10 lakh people to come under social safety net
- ▶ New institutions to come under MPO programme
- ▶ Outline for a private sector pension scheme



A truck carrying bricks from a nearby brick field drives against traffic on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Baliapur area yesterday. Showing utter disregard for safety, a rickshaw also shares the road with other vehicles. Such violations of traffic rules put people's lives at risk.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CRIMES AGAINST ROHINGYAS Dhaka unlikely to respond to ICC

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh is unlikely to send any opinion to the International Criminal Court over exercise of its jurisdiction to investigate the forced deportation of Rohingyas as Myanmar has requested Bangladesh to refrain from responding to ICC's call.

Myanmar conveyed to Bangladesh foreign ministry that the ongoing repatriation process will be affected if Dhaka gets engaged with the ICC, bypassing the bilateral initiative to solve the refugee crisis, diplomatic sources told The Daily Star.

Besides, China, Russia and India have advised Bangladesh to solve the Rohingya problem bilaterally, they added.

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WC winners will get \$38m

AGENCIES, New York

The 32 teams that qualified for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia will not just be battling it out for prestige, honour and the chance to win that famous 18 carat gold trophy in the final. They will also be hoping to progress as far as possible in the tournament to land as much of its lucrative prize money as possible.

The financial rewards on offer in the world's biggest sporting event have grown steadily over the years and this summer, they are going to smash records once again. This year, the total

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Call for justice getting louder

Cox's Bazar Jubo League discusses Akram killing with home boss; Teknaf AL to hold emergency meet today; 4 more killed as drug purge on

STAR REPORT

Two top leaders of Cox's Bazar Jubo League met Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan last night and informed him that they knew Akramul Haque for 12-13 years but never found anything that proved his involvement in drug trade.

"Akram was not that solvent. He also never appeared to be a drug dealer," Sohel Ahmed Bahadur, president of the unit, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Bahadur and the unit's General Secretary Shahidul Haque held a meeting with the minister at the latter's Dhanmondi residence for about 20 minutes from 9:00pm.

Bahadur said they requested the home boss to launch a fair investigation into the killing of Akramul, a former leader of Jubo League, the youth wing of ruling Awami League.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to anyone, if found guilty in the probe.

In response, Asaduzzaman said an investigation into the incident had already begun and action would be taken as

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Rashid, Nabi seal series for Afghanistan

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dehradun

The 19th over began with Afghanistan needing 20 runs to win and Bangladesh's Rubel Hossain bowling to Mohammad Nabi, and a sequence of 4, 6, dot, 4 and 6 was all that was needed for the home side to clinch the three-match series 2-0 with a six-wicket win in the second T20I at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Dehradun yesterday.

It was the same pitch as the one used for the first game, which Afghanistan

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This photo taken on May 13 shows the fourth span of the Padma Bridge being installed between pillars 40 and 41 on the Jazira side. The cost of the project is going to increase again as the government plans to acquire additional land for Tk 1,400 crore.

PHOTO: STAR

Padma bridge cost to rise again

With Tk 1,400cr latest increase, total cost will be Tk 30,193cr

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The cost of the much-hyped Padma Bridge project is going to increase again as the government has to spend more to acquire additional land, taking the total project cost to Tk 30,193 crore.

The Bridges Division, the implementing authority of the project, recently sent a proposal to the planning ministry to acquire 1,163 hectares of land at a cost of Tk 1,400 crore, said planning ministry officials.

The proposal may be placed before the next meeting of Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC), they added.

As per the last revision in January 2016, total project cost was Tk 28,793 crore.

According to officials, the proposal for acquiring more land will be approved as a single project. The increased amount will be added to

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