

2019-2020 FISCAL

DNCC triples budget for mosquito control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With priority to mosquito control activities and waste management, Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Atiquel Islam yesterday announced a Tk 3,057.24 crore budget for 2019-20 fiscal, Tk 489.79 crore higher than last year's.

"We have kept Tk 49.30 crore for mosquito control activities in the current fiscal, which is 182 percent higher than last fiscal. Last year it was only Tk 17.50 crore," said the mayor while announcing the budget at DNCC Nagar Bhaban.

He said they are also planning a separate budget to control Aedes mosquitoes under a project.

"Entomologists and doctors have been working to prepare a master plan for Integrated Vector Management, which will be completed by September 15 and we will be able to share the plan with the media shortly," said Atiquel.

He said they are also going to introduce a monitoring system by a team of entomologists from outside the corporation. These team will

DNCC BUDGET IN NUMBERS

SECTOR	2019-2020	2018-2019
Development expenditure	2335.74 crore	1962.80 crore
Revenue income target	1106.40 crore	857.20 crore
Road and traffic infrastructure development	363 crore	264 crore
Garbage management	86 crore	78 crore
Mosquito control activities	49.30 crore	21 crore
Entertainment facilities development	Tk 4 crore	Tk 3 crore
Graveyard and cremation ground development	Tk 7.25 crore	Tk 4.75 crore
Environment development	Tk 23.35 crore	Tk 14.50 crore

inspect mosquito control drives of DNCC in a particular ward every month, and will give a report about its vector management condition.

The DNCC mayor said they have also increased their allocation on garbage management to Tk 86 crore, which was Tk 63.60 crore last year.

Additionally, Tk 5 crore has been kept for secondary transfer stations, Tk 10 crore for landfill development and maintenance,

and Tk 25 crore for purchasing garbage management equipment and vehicles.

The mayor also said they are going to set up 400 LED lights on DNCC streets in the current fiscal, and will take an initiative to set up 15 foot overbridges with escalator facilities.

MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN THE HORIZON
The DNCC budget document also gave a glimpse into some future

development projects of DNCC, costing around Tk 13,282.25 crore. The mayor, however, did not elaborate when and how these may be implemented.

One of the projects is a 4.7km link road stretching from Ansar camp in Mirpur to Matikata via Rajanigandha market and Kakoli.

Under the project, 5.10km of elevated road will also be developed, he said.

Another big project is Jal Nishargo, a Tk 2,842 crore project that will be implemented at Digun Mouja of Mirpur to protect waterbodies.

The mayor said this project area will be three and half times bigger than Hatirjheel.

Bridges, sluice gates, power plant, swimming pool, lake, floating convention centre, and floating restaurants will be constructed as part of the project, he added.

DNCC will also take Tk 4,025.73 crore project to develop roads, drains, footpaths and infrastructure of 18 newly-added wards in DNCC areas.

BRINGING DISCIPLINE IN TRANSPORT SECTOR

Govt forms 'high-level' taskforce to curb accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a "high-level" taskforce led by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to curb road accidents and bring discipline in the transport sector.

The taskforce will work on implementing 111 recommendations placed by a committee led by former minister Shahjahan Khan in April.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader announced the formation of the taskforce after the 27th meeting of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) at BRTA Headquarters in the capital's Banani.

It is not clear when the taskforce will start working, although Quader said it will begin functioning "soon". The government is yet to issue a gazette in this regard.

The taskforce will be comprised of the inspector general of police; secretaries to the relevant ministries; chief executive officers of two Dhaka city corporations; chiefs of Roads and Highways Department, Local Government Engineering Department, BRTA, BRTC and Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority; and representatives from transport owners and workers organisations.

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Haque, noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud and

Nirapad Sarak Chai Chairman Ilias Kanchan will also be its members while secretary to the Road Transport and Highway Division will be its member secretary.

The taskforce has been formed as per recommendations of the Shahjahan Khan-led committee, which were also adopted by the Council yesterday with some changes.

Amid growing concerns over road crashes, the committee was formed in the last NRSC meeting in February.

But assigning Shahjahan Khan, executive president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, as chief of the committee drew huge criticism as his organisation is often blamed for anarchy in the sector.

The committee on April 28 submitted its report to the prime minister with 111-point recommendation. The existing laws, guidelines and reports of other committees already cover many of those.

Obaidul Quader, also general secretary of Awami League, said on several occasions, different proposals or recommendations were submitted, but the implementation process had been very slow.

"So, we have formed the high-powered taskforce to expedite their implementation," he said.

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Blue economy potential largely untapped: experts

IORA conference concludes in city

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Potentials of blue economy in the Indian Ocean, which is worth \$25 trillion, remain largely untapped due to shortage of investments and absence of comprehensive research on marine resources, according to experts.

"The countries bordering the Indian Ocean extracted resources worth only \$2.5 trillion, whereas its value is worth \$25 trillion," said Rear Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam, secretary to the maritime affairs unit of Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The amount of resources extracted by Bangladesh is worth only \$9.6 billion, but its potential is much more, he said at a press conference yesterday following the third ministerial conference of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on blue economy.

Bangladesh organised the two-day event at InterContinental Dhaka hotel, attended by ministers and representatives of 22 IORA member countries and nine dialogue partners.

IORA members are Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and UAE, while the dialogue partners are China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and USA.

Khurshed Alam said knowledge about the sea in Bangladesh has traditionally been poor. The country began to conduct research on oceans only after the settlement of maritime dispute with India and Myanmar in 2012.

Apart from research, there are some areas like shipping, but there is also not much investment from Bangladesh's private sector. Bangladesh's international trade is worth \$80 billion, and 95 percent of it happens through shipping. It involves 3,000-plus ships, and earning from carrying these goods is worth \$5 billion. However, Bangladesh has only 46 ships.

Bangladesh has 668km of

'Good citizens should not question issues like national election'
Says polls observer group representative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Months after terming the 11th parliamentary election "free and fair", Saarc Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) yesterday reiterated its claim, saying some organisations tried to make the polls look questionable through bringing "smaller issues to the fore".

The EC-registered organisation which observed the December 30 election made the claims at a views-exchange meeting at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

SHRF with support of Election Monitoring Forum (EMF), arranged the meeting where alongside local experts, election observers from India and Nepal who observed the December 30 polls, spoke.

SHRF Secretary General Abed Ali said there were media reports on irregularities found in 213 polling centres. "But this was a tiny part of the whole election," he said.

Such findings seemed to have been prepared from a bias, or based on ill-advice from certain political parties, he said.

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RISE IN CRIMES

Army suggests barbed wire fence around Rohingya camps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army has recommended setting up a barbed wire fence around Rohingya camps over security concerns.

Since there is no fence restricting movement outside the camps, Rohingyas might move to other parts of the country, according to a working paper on the proceedings of a Wednesday meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry. The committee's president Shubid Ali Bhuiyan presided over the meeting.

Refugees are living in 31 makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar. Army personnel have been working to ensure security in the camps since the beginning of the latest exodus of Rohingyas -- from Myanmar to escape persecution by its army -- in 2017.

Bangladesh Army have been helping the local administration distribute relief materials, water and provide healthcare. They also conduct patrols around the areas with law enforcement agencies every day to maintain law and order there.

At Wednesday's meeting, Lt Gen Mahfuzur Rahman said there were 4 lakh children -- aged

between 12 and 17 -- in the camps.

Saying that these children were not receiving any education, he observed, "They will become threat not only to Bangladesh but to the entire South-East Asia."

Given the opportunity, they will spread across the country and international terrorist organisations will try to use them to serve their interests, he added.

The proposal comes at a time when the government is planning to form a second, special police battalion of 800 members to deal with the rise in crimes by refugees in Cox's Bazar.

There are more suggestions from the district police to the police headquarters, including setting up a temporary court either in Ukhia or Teknaf, setting up three police stations and a number of police investigation centres, and installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at different points in the camps, along with a security fence around the camps' perimeter.

According to data from the district police, 76 cases were filed against Rohingyas in 2017. The number has already risen to 187 till August 25 of this year. Around 471 cases have been filed against 1,088 Rohingya since 2017.



A section of Public University teachers yesterday formed a human chain at Dhaka University campus demanding cancellation of University Grants Commission's proposal for uniform policy on the recruitment and promotion of public university teachers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DHAKA TODAY

Ershad in the clear!

ACC relieves him of 1994 graft charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The case was filed against him in 1994, alleging him of embezzling money and causing loss to the state exchequer.

It went on for 25 years. And finally on Wednesday, HM Ershad was cleared of the charges -- nearly two months after his death. The former military dictator passed away on July 14 at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

On September 4, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted a probe report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, dropping the name of the late Jatiya Party chief from the charges.

An official of now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case against him with Tejgaon Police Station on August 31, 1994.

The case statement said that on January 11, 1984, the then president directed the authorities concerned to buy 50 percent of bitumen emulsion required for the Roads and Highways Department from M/s Zakir Industries for his own financial benefit.

Following the order, the authorities bought bitumen

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EXPOSITION

16th Dhaka International Yarn and Fabric Show

Organiser: CEMS Bangladesh

Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara

Time: 10:30am-7:30pm

DISCUSSION

A lively discussion with Yves

Marie -- a renowned sailor, pilot, boatmaker, and entrepreneur.

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka

Time: 6:30pm

THEATRE

Birangonar Boyan

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall,

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

Time: 7pm

TEXTILE EXPOSITION

20th TexTech Bangladesh International Expo

Venue: International Convention City Bashundhara

Time: 10:30am-7:30pm

FILM SCREENING

Torun Nirmatar Cholochitro

Prodorshoni

Venue: Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Aziz Co-Operative Super Market, Shahbagh

Time: 5pm

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Vehicle-free Manik Mia Avenue

Part of the road will be off-limits to vehicles for recreation.

Time: 8am-11am



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

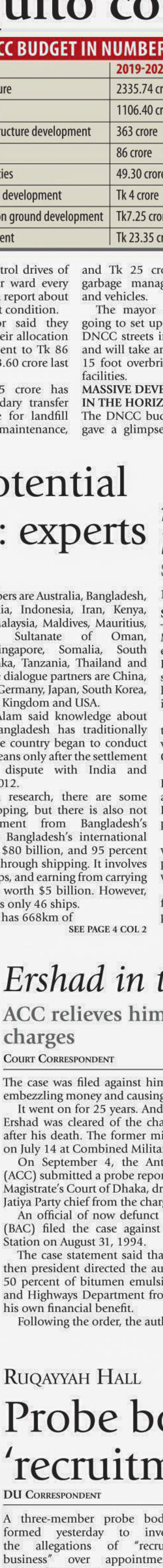
Armed Police Battalion (APBn) officials arrested a flight attendant with 82 gold bars -- weighing 9.5kg -- at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Rabeya Sheikh Mousumi, 25, was on a flight from Oman that landed at the airport around 11am.

APBn officials, on prior information, intercepted her as she came out of the airport and was about to board a microbus, Alamgir Hossain Shimul, additional superintendent (Ops and Media) of Airport APBn, told

The Daily Star.

Mousumi initially denied carrying any gold with her but the officials found the bars -- wrapped in scotch tape in six



DU CORRESPONDENT

A three-member probe body was formed yesterday to investigate the allegations of "recruitment business" over appointment of some administrative posts in Dhaka University's Ruqayyah hall.