Salary in cheque

industries instead of allowing 100 percent depreciation in the very first year of installation.

The annual tax exemption limit on conveyance allowance paid in cash has been proposed to be raised to Tk 18,000 from Tk 12,000 for computing incomes of salaried

Income tax practitioners have to be members of registered taxes bar associations for working as authorised persons. The amount of investment eligible for tax rebate has been raised to Tk 2.5 lakh from Tk2 lakh. Tax exemption benefit on remittance from abroad by people who are not citizens of Bangladesh has been withdrawn.

Tax rates on purchase or construction of buildings and apartments in Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Dhanmondi, DOHS of Dhaka, and Panchlaish and Khulshi of Chittagong have been re-fixed at Tk 300 per sqaure metres for a plinth area up to 200 square metres and Tk 500 for a plinth area over 200 square metres. For other areas the tax rates will remain

The tax rate for purchase of land has been increased to 7.50 percent from 5 percent all over the country. The budget proposed to introduce a provision of minimum income tax of Tk 5,000 or 0.50 percent of turnover, whichever is higher, for companies irrespective of profit or

An advance income tax on the bills paid by the user of credit cards has been fixed at 3 percent.

The tax rates for purchasing motorcars have been increased to 10 percent and 15 percent from 5 and 7.5 percent respectively.

NON-TAXABLE INDIVIDUAL INCOMELIMIT REMAINS SAME Limit on non-taxable individual income remains at the same level of Tk 120,000 in the proposed budget for the 2006-07 financial year although essential prices continued to rise and living cost increased substantially in the last

Those who would earn more than Tk 120,000 will have to pay 10 percent tax of the total income up to Tk 250,000, 15 percent of the total earning up to Tk 300,000, 20 percent of the total income up to Tk 350,000 and 25 percent of the total income above Tk 350,000.

However, the minimum tax

tax at the highest rate of 25 percent in the assessment year 2006-07, will enjoy a 10 percent tax rebate on the additional tax paid if they disclose more than 10 percent higher income in assessment year 2007-

FOUR-TIER CUSTOMS DUTY STRUCTURE REMAINS INTACT The four-tier customs duty structure remains intact in the proposed budget but there have been changes in rates. The finance minister proposed to reduce the customs duty on basic raw materials to 5 per cent from 6 per cent and 12 per cent on intermediate goods

from 13 per cent. The budget also proposed to cut the supplementary duty to 20 per cent and 15 per cent from 35 per cent and 25 per cent. The finance minister hoped the changes in the duty structure will help the domestic industries grow, resulting in positive impact on the economy.

The proposed budget also exempted fertilizer, seeds, capital machinery, drum-seeder and other agricultural inputs from duties and taxes at the import level.

The infrastructure development surcharge (IDS) has been withdrawn from import of all kinds of hybrid rice seeds.

The poultry and livestock industry gets a boost. The government has proposed to withdraw all duties and taxes on import of capital machinery and accessories and other inputs of the industry.

The import duties on raw materials of plastic and melamine products have been proposed at 5 per cent from 13 per cent for making this industry more competitive in the domestic and international markets. The duties on some raw materials for local electronic industry have also been reduced to 5 per cent from 13 per cent.

The finance minister proposed to withdraw all duties and taxes on certain spare parts of garment, textiles, hosiery, label and terry towel industries and affluent treatment plants.

Besides, the duty on synthetic filament tow, one of the basic raw materials for hosiery industry, has also been withdrawn.

In a bid to make local paper and printing industry more competitive the budget proposed 15 per cent supplementary duty on advertising materials and commercial catalogues. The duty on cellular payable would be Tk 1,800. mobile phone set has been reduced to Tk 200 from Tk 300 per set.

3 houses looted. housewife raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Miscreants looted three houses and raped a housewife at Gavina village under Durgapur upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

Police and inmates of the houses said a gang of 12 attacked the houses of Akhil Chandra Pal, Sushil Chandra Das and Rabindra Chandra Das and looted valuables and gold ornaments worth about Tk 2 lakh.

The gang dragged Ratna Pal, 25, wife of Akhil Chandra Pal, out of their house and raped her. Seriously injured Ratna is now undergoing treatment at Netrakona Sadar Hospital. The miscreants also tried to

violate Basanti Rani Das, 18, daughter of Sushil Chandra Das. They cried for help. Hearing screams, the villagers rushed to the scene, but could not catch

hold of any of the gang. A case was filed with Durgapur Police Station. No one was arrested as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An underground operative was killed in an encounter between the law enforcers and his cohorts in Khulna early yesterday.

Police arrested Ashikur Rahman Rinku, 30, of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) at Sonadanga in the city

onWednesdaynight.
On his confessional statement, police launched a drive in Sonadanga area at around 4:00am vesterday to arrest Rinku's accomplices and hidden firearms, taking him

Sensing the presence of the police near Basupara graveyard, Rinku's accomplices opened fire, forcing the lawenforcers to retaliate.

Police said Rinku received bullets during the shootout and died Son of Mohammad Aminul Islam

Master of Sonadanga, Rinku was wanted in six criminal cases including two for murder, policesaid.

Two pipe guns and three bullets were recovered from the scene

Budget designed

Describing the proposed budget as 'deceptive', 'ambitious', and 'visionless', he said it does not have any holistic approach to tackling price hike of essentials

termed the proposed budget unreal, meritless and imaginary.

opposition party in parliament said the common people of the country are least interested in the budget as prices of all essentials, including fuel and utilities, have already gone beyond their pur-chasing capacity. The budget does

not bring anything positive for the

he noted.

"We cannot accept this budget as there is no specific direction as to how we can go ahead overcoming the ongoing power, fuel and gas crises and putting an end to misrule," said Muhith, also member of the AL advisory council. All these problems have seriously hampered investment in the country, he mentioned.

The former finance minister said the proposed budget has set so many targets without specifying how those would be achieved. It would the responsibility of three governments-- incumbent one, caretaker one and the next elected one -- to implement this budget and that less than 70 per cent of it would be implemented, he noted.

goods have been decreased in the proposed budget but it would not help the people in general, rather it would benefit those who stockpile imported goods, including plastic materials.

Jalil said the proposed budget has not allocated any funds for construction of Padma bridge, which is the main demand of the people of south-western region. AL Leaders Abdur Razzak,

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Syed Ashraful Islam, Abdur Rahman, Akthtaruzzaman, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, among others, were present at the press conference held at the party's

Dhanmondi office in the capital. Earlier, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid said the proposed budget for FY 2006-07 aims to create opportunities for the ruling alliance loyalists to plunder public money ahead of the next polls.

'People are frustrated with the proposed budget as it lacks steps to resolve the crises they are now facing," he said at a press conference at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Quoting from the proposed budget, Hamid said that the finance minister has proposed to allot 12 per cent of the total allocation to the local government. "This amount will go to the pockets of ruling coalition activists," he

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak said the finance minister did not allocate any money for the construction of the proposed Padma Bridge, although it is the demand of the people of South and South-Western parts of the country for a long time.

Senior lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta described the budget as 'full of manipulated figures' and said the government has imposed uniform duty on canned water and liquor.

There is no indication as how to control the price hike of essentials

and resist militancy. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, ASHK Sadeque, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Mohammad Nasim, Faruk Khan, Abdus Shahid, Shahjahan Khan were present at the briefing.

ERSHAD'S REACTION Ershad said it would take three governments to implement the proposed budget. Although the finance minister had earlier said he would propose a budget that would embarrass the caretaker government and the next one but he has not done that.

The budget does not have any commitment to curb the price hike of essentials and end loadshedding," he said.

His party would not accept any

Budget doesn't address risks

risks to economic growth and sta-There is apparently some effort to

find common ground between election politics and public welfare; but the finance minister still faces the challenge of providing enough safeguards to prevent wasteful or low-priority development spending ahead of the elections, he said.

of the development budget, the closing year's revised budget still shows a substantial increase in the government's bank borrowing. This also happened in the previous fiscal, 2004-05, when the government had to resort to large-scale bank borrowing at the fag end of the year because of a sudden flurry in development spending. The situation this time is different. The bank borrowing by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation for meeting fuel subsidies is outside the budgetary accounts. Bangladesh Bank has already taken a cautious stance regarding credit expansion in the private sector and there is a liquidity crunch in the banking system; even then the new financial year is poised to start with an overhang of excessive credit expansion and inflationary pressure."

The proposed budget for the coming fiscal is for practical purpose an interim budget, subject to revision by the next elected government, the eminent economist observed.

'One could thus view the projections of revenue earnings and development spending as ambitious and even wishful thinking, but these could alternatively taken as a blueprint of what is needed to support social development and higher economic growth. The justification for providing such a blueprint at the end of the government's tenure may still be questioned. However, what matters for the time being is how the government proposes to implement the budget during the rest of its tenure in view of the prevailing economic strains arising from the inflationary trends, pressure on the exchange rate and the huge burden of fuel subsidies. It would have been better if this could be spelled out in

the budget proposal." It is quite expected that politics will dominate over economics in this year's budget proposal, but even the political options are not easy, he said. The government would like to

delay any upward adjustment in fuel prices. A vigorous revenue drive is also unlikely. There will be pressure for election-oriented development spending that may further increase the public sector's bank borrowing. This in turn may create further inflationary pressure, or, alternatively, may require a further squeeze on credit to the private sector neither of which is a desirable option. The disbursements of foreign aid will depend on how far the donors' conditionalities can be met. There is thus a great deal of uncertainty about how the emerging budget deficits can be financed consistent with the

overall monetary policy. Even if the finance minister has been able to mechanism of providing subsidy scramble some figures to work out the budgetary balances, this should be no relief to the worries of the Bangladesh Bankgovernor."

Much will depend on how the government goes about disbursing funds for development projects in the remaining period of its tenure, Wahiduddin Mahmud said.

The proposed development budget for the next fiscal has included a large number of new unapproved projects presumably under political pressure. This can undo the hard work of the finance minister over the past few years in bringing down the number of projects with a view to facilitating their timely implementation and reducing low-priority development spending. A saving grace is that no funds have been allocated against these new projects. There are, how-ever, large block grants that are a matter of concern.

Import taxes have been reduced to some extent -- partly to meet aid conditionality, partly to provide production incentives, and partly to lower the prices of imported essentials, the economist observed.

"So these tax measures will be generally popular. Yet the challenge remains in mobilising higher revenue by collecting more taxes from domestic sources. Some reforms in tax administration have been proposed including the appointment of a tax ombudsman and other ongoing reforms are to be strengthened again mostly as part of meeting aid conditionality. The key to dealing with tax evasion lies not so much in reforming the tax administration as in gathering the necessary political

"The rather belated decision to withdraw the opportunity of whitening black money is most welcome. But what is the rationale for still keeping this tax concession in the case of the purchase of cars, houses and land in posh urban areas? These are precisely the uses of black money that are relatively easy to detect hence the rationale of continuing with the tax concessions is doubtful. However, the proposed concession for tax on additional declared income over that of the previous year may have some justification on ground of providing incentive to taxpayers.

In increasing the allocations for agricultural subsidy, poverty reduction and social security, there is an effort in the budget to combine populism with public welfare, he said.

He, however, mentioned the problem of finding enough resources as well as ensuring that the assistance reaches the intended benefi-

"It is alleged that the benefit of fertiliser subsidy at the import stage, which was provided for in the last year's budget, did not actually reach the farmers. This is a likely outcome where the import trade is not competitive enough. The finance minis-

might be discontinued and has discussed about other alternatives. The idea of distributing fertilisers at subsidised prices through some government agencies like BADC is also fraught with risks. The middlethe marketing system is not competitive, or if the dealers are appointed politically, or adequate uninterrupted supply cannot be

"On the other hand, if agricultural inputs like fertilisers and diesel are to be distributed directly among farmers through some mechanism like the VGD card, then the system needs to be efficient and accountable. The food distribution through VGD card has a self-screening mechanism, because the relatively welloff people do not like to participate in such a programme out of a sense of self-esteem; even then there are leakages. In the case of distribution of fertiliser or diesel, there is no such psychological inhibition against an elite capture of the system.

Air polluters

to discourage the import of such polluters and encourage the use of environment-friendly four-stroke

However, environmentalists are sceptical about how much the proposed duty cut will serve the government's campaign for a pollution free environment with an equal 25 per cent supplementary duty set on both two and for stroke engines.

They believe encouraging the import of two stroke engines by reducing duty is like discouraging the environmental movement in the country.

director (programme) of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA), said it is totally unexpected that the government cut the duty on two-stroke engines. She said, "The government had

not only banned two-stroke threewheelers in the capital but also committed to eventually phase it out from elsewhere in the country. "It was an achievement of the

can hope now is that the capital be safe from these polluters," she

wheelers, engines and chassis. The duty reduction is sure to add more pollution to our already much-polluted environment," he said, "It's not justified; it may serve a

BNP cadres

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

ransack

Khoksa

Press Club

Ruling BNP cadres yesterday vandalised Khoksa Press Club and declared to oust journalists from the upazila.

According to sources, Ashraful, Khoksa upazila correspondent of the daily Ajker Kagoj and editor of local weekly 'Droho' took photographs of BNP men vandalising some establishments Muktijoddha Sangshad office in Khoksa at about 1:45pm.

After sometime when Ashraful was sitting at Khoksa Press Club, some 500 yards off the spot, the BNP men stormed into the press club and demanded he hand over his camera. As he refused, the BNP men launched an attack on the press club.

They broke furniture and signboard and also looted valu-

At one stage, they assaulted Ashraful and snatched his cam-

Khoksa upazila BNP vicepresident, also Khoksa Municipality Chairman, Anwar Ahmed Tatari and his henchmen Abul and Diyanat led the attack.

Later, the BNP men declared to drive out all journalists from the upazila and warned them of the consequences the Kushtia journalists had faced earlier.

Four journalists of Kushtia are now in Dhaka due to a series of repression by ruling party lawmaker as well as Kushtia BNP president and local lawmaker Shahidul Islam.

Upazila units of Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) protested the incident and demanded immediate arrest of

High bank borrowing

In NBR tax portion, highest emphasis has been put on income tax, which has been raised by 22 per cent while VAT was proposed to be raised by 18.80 per cent. Import tariff has been increased by 15 per cent while supplementary tariff by 20.44 per cent in the coming fiscal compared to the current budget.

The overall deficit except grants has been set at Tk 17,198 crore, which is 3.7 per cent of the GDP. FY06 REVISED BUDGET Total expenditure for the revised

current budget has been fixed at Tk 61,058 crore, which is 5 per cent less than that of the original budget. Of it, the revenue expenditure has been reduced by 2.69 per cent to putitatTk37,057 crore. Total development expenditure

has been reduced by 11 per cent to put it at Tk 23,626 crore. Of it, ADP expenditure has been reduced by Tk 3,000 crore to make it Tk 21,500

Total revenue in the current revised budget has been reduced by 1.86 per cent from the original budget to make it Tk 44,868 crore. Of it, NBR portion has been reduced by Tk 1,196 crore to make it Tk 34,456 crore. Again non-tax revenue has been raised by Tk 283

crore to make it Tk 8,693 crore. The overall deficit (except grants) in the original budget was set at Tk 18,661 crore, but because of failure to fully implement the ADP, the deficit has come down to Tk 16,190 in the revised budget, which is 3.9 percent of the GDP. DEFICITFINANCING

A change has been marked in the case of both foreign aid and internal borrowing.

In the revised budget, net foreign loan has been reduced by 21 per cent from the original budget to make it Tk 5,574 crore. In the new budget, net foreign loan has been raised by 5 per cent to put it at Tk 5,856 crore.

In the current revised budget,

25 per cent from the original to make it Tk 2,476 crore. In the new budget, it has been raised by 1.2 per

cent to make it Tk 2,508 crore. In the current revised budget, bank borrowing has been raised by 35 per cent from the original to make it Tk 4,911 crore. In the new budget, it has been raised by 11 per

cent to make it Tk5,434 crore. Borrowing through saving instruments in the current revised budget has been reduced by 30 per cent from the original to make it Tk 2,600 crore. It has been kept the same in the new budget.

Home gets 13pc higher budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home ministry's budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year is Tk 3,386.59 crore, which is 12.85 percent higher than previous FY.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman proposed Tk 157.78 crore for development and Tk 3228.81 crore for non-development sector of the ministry for the coming FY.

The allocation was 3001.04 crore in the proposed budget and 3194.60 crore in the revised budget of the 2005-06 FY.

'To improve the law and order, in last five years, we have increased allocation by an average of 14 percent," the finance minister said while placing his budget in parliament yesterday.

The government enacted nearly 150 laws reforming the existing criminal and civil justice system and reformed a large number of outdated laws in addition to introducing important amendments to Registration Act, Transfer of Property Act and Specific Relief Act and Limitation Act.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয় গণপূর্ত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ বিভাগ ১ম-১২ তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

পুনঃ বিক্রয় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (৪র্থ আহবান)

দরপত্র নং-৩৬০/২০০৫-২০০৬

এতথারা পরিতাক্ত সম্পত্তি হিসাবে নাম্ভ নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠান "গ্যামন বাংলাদেশ লিঃ" এনার জনা নাম্মহা বাংলাদেশী ক্রেতা বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে সীলমোহরকত দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়।

8 (১) 화역 (주) সম্পত্তির তফসিল

800, दञ्जनीय निम्न जनाका, जाकात "नामना-नाश्नारनन লিঃ" এর অফিস ও ৩,০০ (তিন) বিখা জমিসহ অন্যান্য ভরনসমূহ ইত্যাদি। ৩৭/৩৮, বেওনবাড়ি, তেজনীও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকার ১.৫০

(দেড়) বিঘা জমি ও আধাপাকা ভবন ইত্যাদি এবং ৪০০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, চাকা, ৩৭/৩৮, বেখনবাড়ি, শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকার জারগায় "গামন বাংলাদেশ লিঃ" এর যন্তপাতি, যানবাহন, আসনাবপত্র, স্টোরস ইত্যাদিসহ এই काटर्यत भुनाय।

আগ্ৰহী ব্যক্তি বা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানসমূহ ০৮-০৬-০৬ইং তাৰিখ হতে ০৯-০৭-০৬ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ক্রয় কবতে পারবেন।

বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা এর অফিস। निर्वाही প্রকৌশলী, গণপুর্ত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ বিভাগ, (मध्नवाशिष्ठा, **जिका/निर्वारी अक्तिमली, प्रम**श्रेष्ठ विखाण नर ১/২/৩/৪, ঢাকা/নগর গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/ইডেন গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, চাকা/মেডিকেল কলেজ গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, চাকা/সম্পদ গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/ শেরেনাংলা নগর গণপূর্ত বিভাগ-১/২/৩, ঢাকা/মহাখালী গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/মতিবিল গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/আজিমপুর গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/সাভার গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/মিরপুর গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, ঢাকা/মির্নাহী अर्कोमनी, भनभूठ विভाগ-८, जाका এর আওতাধীন উপ-

সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা/নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, গণপুর্ত ই/এম বিভাগ-৫, ঢাকা। প্রতি ফ্রন্থে প্রতি সেটের মূলা ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা

विजाशीय अरकोभनी, शनभूठं छप-विजाग-१, भूछं जवन

মাত্র। (অফেরতযোগ্য)। ত) দরপত্র দাখিল সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী ও শর্তাবলী ও শর্তাদি সিডিউলে সন্থিবেশিত রয়েছে।

গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়ের সম্মেলন কক্ষ (ভবন নং-৫, রুম নং-২০৪, ৪। ক) দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান

> সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা। ৩। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, গণপূর্ত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ বিভাগ, ১ম-১২ তলা সরকারি

অফিস ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা। প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা, "গ্যামন বাংলাদেশ লিঃ" ৪০০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা,

তারিখঃ ১০/০৭/০৬ই, সময় বেলা-১২০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ১০/০৭/০৬ইং তারিখ, সময় বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র কমিটির সমূখে দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, भाका अत अत्यालन कटक त्याला शत ।

 ৬) মহামান্য আদালতের রায় অনুযায়ী সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছে য়ে, চক্রিবদ্ধ উপ-ঠিকাদায়দের কায় শেষ না হয়য়া পর্যন্ত আদের স্বার্থ রক্ষার জন্য চলতি নির্মাণ কাজসমূহ হতে "গ্যামন বাংলাদেশ লিঃ" এর প্রশাসকের বরাবরে যে সক্ষণ চেক ইসূ করা হবে, তা যুগা-সচিব (মনিটরিং সেল) গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয় এর বরাবরে উঞ্চ চেক ইস্। করবেন। তিনি বাংক লেনদেন পরিচালনাসহ উপ-ঠিকাদারদের পাওনা তাদের সংগে সম্পাদিত চুক্তি অনুযায়ী পরিশোধ করলেন। "গ্যামন বাংলাদেশ লিঃ" এর চুক্তি অনুযায়ী প্রাপ্ত কমিশন সরকারি রাজস্ব খাতে নির্ধারিত হেডে জয়। হরে।

> रेनग्रम मार्युक जार्यम निर्वासे अंदर्जे गली গণপূর্ত রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ বিভাগ, ঢাকা

Feast for many

agriculture will continue and the proposed withdrawal of Infrastructure Development Surcharge will further boost the rural revamping effort. The agriculture ministry's overall budget also

increased by a huge 42 per cent. tiles industries will benefit as tax exemption and rebates on them were extended for two more years. But he looked a bit harsh on exports by proposing to deduct 5 per cent tax at source on export cash incentives.

The rural non-crop sector that helps poverty alleviation by creating waged employment also stands to gain as duties and taxes have been proposed to be withdrawn on capital machinery, accessories and Against the backdrop of the current turmoil in the garment industry, Saifur's support for devel-

opment of backward linkage

industries by withdrawing all

duties and taxes from certain

spares will act as a small respite. His proposed Tk 20 crore Skill Development Fund for the Readymade Garment Workers can also be a beginner for better productivity. Saifur also kept his promise to support the SME sector, especially plastic and melamine industries through duty incentives. But the budget's major contribution may be the enhancement of the Equity Development Fund to Tk 200 crore

from the earlier Tk 100 crore and

the Agro-based Industries

Assistance Programme to Tk 150

crore from this fiscal year's Tk 100 Much of the benefits given to industry may get neutralised as the proposed budget has offered very little to improve power, port and other key infrastructures. With around 2,000 MW of power shortage, the Tk 4,286 crore allocation for the energy and power sector, a mere 14 per cent higher figure from the revised budget of this year, looks insufficient to feed the industrial development that Saifur envisages in the proposed budget.

Saifur marginally strengthened the previous safety net programmes to support the disadvantaged groups and included a new Tk 50 crore programme --Fund for Assistance to Small Farmers Affected by Natural Disasters -- to help small farmers mitigate natural disasters in absence of crop insurance.

However, all these efforts boil down to one point - whether Saifur's ambitiously proposed over 17 per cent growth in revenue earning from this year's revised

figure will be achieved when the current year's projected 16.23 per

cent growth remains unachieved. Saifur in his speech also expressed a note of despair when he said: "With anguish in my heart I would like to mention that collection of revenue, implementation of development projects, and other important economic activities of the government are being seriously icopardised by a spurt in the number of court cases, delay in their disposal and our ability to recruit officials because of cumbersome legal processes. In spite of all our sincere efforts, it has become very difficult to achieve the revenue target. I would like to draw the attention of the honorable mem-

them to undertake reforms of the Much of his hope for higher revenue collection depends on the expected 7 per cent growth in economy next year. But with such across the table tariff reductions, exemptions, inefficiency of the tax department and judiciary, and corruption, such hopes may get dashed any time. And if such a

bers of parliament and appeal to

thing happens, Saifur's figures may go haywire. He has rightly targeted income tax as a major source of earning and proposed a 22 per cent growth. But an 18 per cent proposed increase in VAT collection will hit everybody -- poor and non-poor alike.

A large portion of Saifur's revenue earnings will come through cancelling 100 per cent accelerated depreciation in the very first year of machinery installation and spreading it over three years -- 50 per cent, 30 per cent and 20 per cent. This, as many would dub, a clever move for revenue collec-

He has proposed a lower revenue expenditure with only 14 per cent growth from the revised figure against over 16 per cent growth of this fiscal year's. But his key expenditure growth has been kept in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) that has been proposed to rise by 21 per cent. Such a high growth target may in the end prove a relief as lower ADP implementation will match with

apprehended lower revenue But Saifur has been specially silent on what his plans are to fight corruption although his speech contains a whole chapter on public financial management and good governance. With the Anti-Corruption Commission in limbo and vested political and private interest groups more active than ever, the silence may prove fatal.

and power, gas and fuel crises -he major crises facing the country for the last couple of years. On the other hand, Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad also

The chief of the second largest

not show any solution to these problems, he added. Muhith said the proposed budget lacks 'visions' and would

"Budget should be aimed at facilitating investment in the country but the proposed budget lacks such visions," he said. The budget would encourage black money holders to whiten their money as it (budget) encourages buying of lands, houses and cars, which does not mean investment,

Muhith said taxes on different

AL General Secretary Abdul

men will reap most of the benefits if

CNG-run three-wheelers.

Asked, Syeda Rizwana Hasan,

environmentalists and it improved the air quality in the capital. All we

Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association, said the proposed duty structure will encourage a group of businesspersons to import environment-unfriendly two-stroke three-

certain group of importers.

13/5-3000

১। ক) সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের ঃ

তারিখ ও সময়

8 (3)

(2)

২) সিডিউলের মূল্য

थं) সময়

৫) দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ঃ

বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা। বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ১ম-১২ তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন,

কওঁপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

द्यान नर्-१८६२२१५