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Revenue expenditure kept with budget allocation: Kibria

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday defined the supplementary budget as a document of frugality, reports UNB.

Winding up the discussion on the supplementary budget in the parliament, the Finance Minister said for the first time the revenue expenditure was kept within the budget allocation.

Referring to some of the allegations of the opposition parties and opposition members, the Finance Minister said those comments were very general as nothing was specific.

The Finance Minister said the revenue expenditure allocated in the main budget was Tk 14,544 crore while the supplementary budget was limited

within Tk 14,500 crore.

"This year we had increase allocation for education, agriculture, health and sports sectors and we reduced expenditure of some of the ministries."

Earlier, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury said she was frustrated listening to the deliberations of the MPs on the supplementary budget because most of them discussed issues out of the supplementary budget.

However, during the discussion, all the opposition MPs (Jatiya Party) blasted the government for mismanaging the economy while all the ruling party MPs praised the government for bringing back financial discipline in the economy.

World Cup

From Page 1

the half, with Daily working especially well moving the ball down the left side. But while Grodas was kept busy catching headers and punching away corners, he didn't have to make a tough save.

Norway's one quality shot in the first half came in the 28th minute on Roar Strand's close-range effort from the right, but Scotland keeper Jim Leighton made the sliding stop.

The Norwegians scored both their goals off set plays in a 2-2 draw with Morocco last week, but Scottish defender Colin Hendry won the aerial battle with tall striker Tore Andre Flo, keeping the Scandinavians' scoring chances at bay.

Thrust sectors

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dustrial relations, small and cottage industries, export oriented industries, FDI, role of BOI and EPZs, industrial technology and formation of a national council for industrial development (NICID) to guide the implementation of the policy.

The committee members recommended constitution of a committee to ensure coordination among the relevant government agencies in implementing the policy.

Both manufacturing and service sectors have been defined as industry in the policy.

The manufacturing sector includes all production, processing and assembling activities as well as repairing and reconditioning of processed goods.

The service sector includes advertising, internal container depot, construction, engineering consulting, entertainment, financial institutions, hospitals and clinics, information technology based activities, training services and hotel.

The policy has identified 17 thrust sectors of industries where Bangladesh has enough potentials to expand.

The sectors are agriculture, agro-based industries, textiles, computer software and IT, electronics, leather, oil and gas, infrastructure, frozen food, staffed toys, gift items, jewellery, jute goods, sericulture and silk industry, artificial flower and tourism.

The policy has been formulated giving priority to infrastructure development, extending protection to domestic industries from external competition and retaining the competitive edge of domestic products through linking wage increase to productivity trends.

The committee conducted a series of meetings since its formation on October 17, 1996 to formulate a prudent, forward-looking, private sector dominant and export-oriented industrial policy.



Soccer fans in Lalbagh area staged a demonstration yesterday demanding smooth power supply during the World Cup matches. — Star photo

Hasina: Disarmament

From Page 1

no problems with Bangladesh." He mentioned successful signing of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and thanked Hasina for signing the CHT Peace Accord.

He appreciated Bangladesh's active role in SAARC and hosting of the three-nation business summit of Bangladesh-India-Pakistan in Dhaka in January last.

He also felt the need for more such summits to boost economic and trade relations in the countries of the region.

The Indian Prime Minister welcomed Sheikh Hasina's visit to India and hoped that existing friendly relations between the two neighbours would be further strengthened through this visit.

Later Atal Behari Vajpayee hosted a luncheon in honour of Sheikh Hasina.

The luncheon was attended by former Indian prime ministers Narasimha Rao, IK Gujral and VP Singh, and prominent leaders of the ruling party and the opposition.

BSS adds: Sheikh Hasina said here today that her talks with Vajpayee focused primarily on finding ways and means to enhance economic, trade and investment cooperation be-

tween the two countries.

In a statement after an exclusive session with Ind-India Prime Minister Hasina said "both of us shared the view that Bangladesh-India bilateral relations are on a sound footing and we can look forward to further development and consolidation of these relations."

Sheikh Hasina said during her deliberations, the current South Asia situation was discussed.

She said Prime Minister Vajpayee briefed her on the Indian compulsions for conducting the nuclear tests.

"I made it clear that Bangladesh believes that it is the sovereign right of every country to decide on its own security perceptions and take measures accordingly," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said she briefed her Indian counterpart that Bangladesh was a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) while the NPT and CTBT were unequal and discriminatory and the nuclear weapon states had not done as much as they could have by way of nuclear disarmament.

Terrorists damage buses at Fulbaria terminal

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of terrorists damaged at least five buses and exploded crackers at the Fulbaria bus terminal in the city yesterday when bus drivers and workers refused their toll.

Police, quoting the FIR filed with Kotwali thana by Jahangir on behalf of Fulbaria Bus Sramik Samity, said about fifteen youngsters allegedly led by one Shawkat had demanded toll at about 10 am.

In another incident, an 'ousted' group of bus employees attacked their rivals who are now controlling the bus terminal. They staged a chase and counter-chase for about half an hour when at least 25 crackers were exploded.

Three cases were filed with Ramna and Kotwali thanas in connection with the incident, police said.

Sangu

From Page 1

Petrobangla must deploy its representatives to monitor and safeguard its interests," said an expert.

Cairn had committed to supply 160 mmcfcd gas from six wells in Sangu field to the national grid daily from April last. But due to several technical and non-technical reasons, the schedule was delayed by nearly two months. Now it is supplying 60 mmcfcd gas from 4 wells. Of the remaining two wells, one turned out dry and the other still has some 'technical problems,' sources said.

"Cairn is saying that if the government wants, it can supply 160 mmcfcd gas daily from the 4 wells right now," said a source. "But Petrobangla told Cairn that it would not allow extraction of more than 30 mmcfcd gas from each well for safety reasons. In other words, Cairn can supply a maximum quantity of 120 mmcfcd now," the source added.

He further said that Cairn would gradually increase its supply in the next six months.

But due to lack of forward planning for utilisation of gas, Petrobangla would not be able to utilise 120 mmcfcd gas right away, sources said.

"One of the major gas consumers — KAFCO — which contractually buys gas from the government at a rate much lower than the country's standard rate, is one of the main defaulters as it did not pay about Tk 50 crore gas bill. Therefore, Petrobangla will not sell the Sangu gas to KAFCO till that bill is cleared," said an official. KAFCO consumes about 60 mmcfcd gas daily.

D-8 confce in city Nov 28-29 likely: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that the second D-8 conference is expected to be held in Dhaka on November 28-29, reports UNB.

"Preparations are underway as majority members have given their consent to hold the conference in November," she said while replying to Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan of BNP in parliament yesterday.

The written reply was tabled in the House during the PM's question time as Hasina had earlier left for New Delhi for a one-day visit.

She, however, said that the date will be finalised after receiving consent of all the member countries.

Shazneen murder

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Abdus Salam took about three and half hours to record the statement of Parvin under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Later she was sent to the Dhaka Central jail, court sources said.

Parvin reportedly said in the statement that she saw Shahid, the confessed killer, sitting on Shazneen's body lying on the floor in her bed room.

Security guard Humayun Kabir, another accused in the murder, in his confessional statement on May 28 reportedly said Parvin was one of the six people involved in the killing of the youngest daughter of the Chairman of Transcom Ltd.

According to Humayun's statement, the five others were confessed killer Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal and carpenter Shoni Ram and himself.

Indo-Bangla talks Foreign Secys to meet in Dhaka June 29

NEW DELHI, June 16: Foreign Secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and India will be held in Dhaka on June 29 to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations, reports UNB.

Indian Foreign Secretary K Raghunath will lead the two-day talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Mustafizur Rahman.

Former minister Shamsul Huq dead

Shamsul Huq, a former minister in the Bangabandhu's cabinet, died of cerebral haemorrhage at the Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital yesterday. He was 71, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

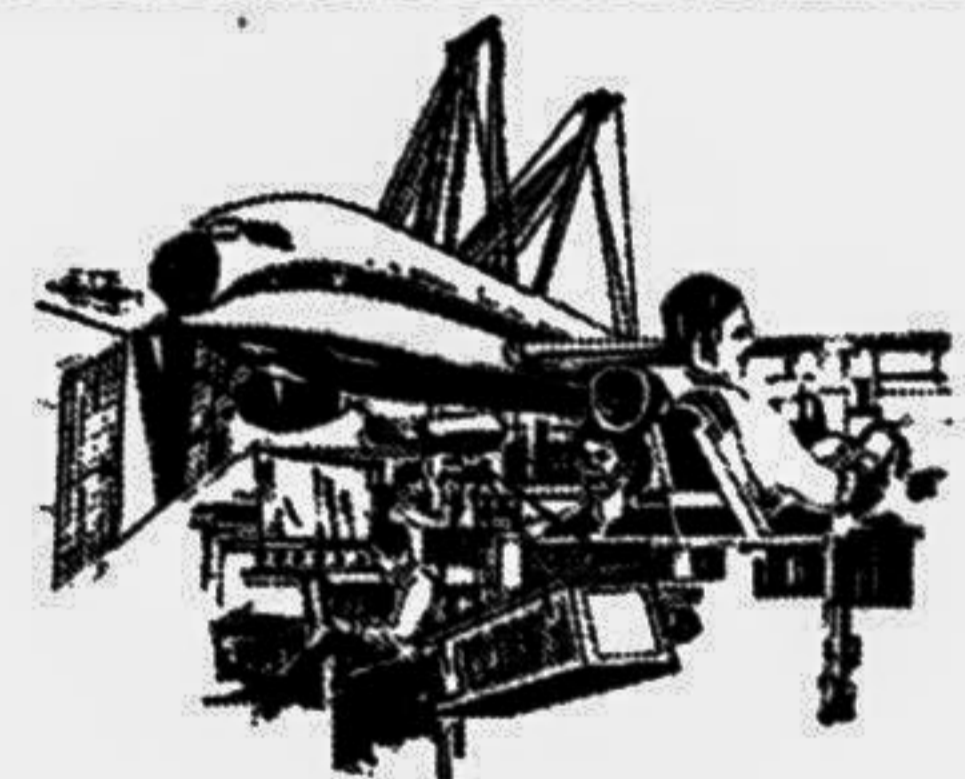
A veteran politician, Huq hailed from Kaliakoir under Gazipur district.

BNP warns

From Page 1

road during the June 9 Long March, crisis of electricity, gas and water, deteriorating law and order and the anti-people budget.

Supreme Court Bar Association general secretary Abdul Awal, Engineers Association of Bangladesh president LK Siddiqui, Doctors Association of Bangladesh president Prof Abdur Rashid and Agriculturists Association of Bangladesh president Dr Nurul Islam expressed solidarity with the hartal call.



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