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Budget on Thursday

The budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad begins tomorrow at 9:30 am, reports BSS.

This will be 18th session of the seventh parliament.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria will place the budget for fiscal 2000-2001 at 3 pm on Thursday.

The JS Business Advisory Committee will meet this morning. Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury will chair the meeting.

Sangsad sources said the budget session is expected to run for over 40 days. Several new bills, including the District Council Bill, are expected to be introduced in the budget session.

Meanwhile, 14 bills, which were introduced in the House in earlier sessions, are also expected to be disposed of in the session.

The House during the session will scrutinise the revised budget for the current year.

Opposition lays siege to CE office today

By Staff Correspondent

The 4-party opposition alliance will lay siege to the Election Commission offices across the country today to protest 'unilateral' appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The siege programme is also aimed at warning the government and the EC not to hold any elections before the next parliamentary polls and to force CEC M A Syed to resign immediately.

Meanwhile, the government has imposed a 12-hour ban on gatherings, processions and demonstrations from 6 am to day around the EC Secretariat.

The restricted areas stretch from Bangla Motor crossing to Mohakhali rail crossing, western parts of Bangla Motor Link Road to SAARC fountain on Sonargaon Road, eastern point of Panthapath to Green Road connecting point to Firm Gate, Shyamoli Cinema Hall to Dhamondi Road No 27, Agar-

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Four lawyers mugged in city

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers took away Tk 37,000 from four lawyers at Tikatuli in the city yesterday morning.

The gang waylaid the rickshaws carrying the lawyers at Tikatuli at around 8:15 am and snatched away Tk 37,000 from them.

The muggers also stabbed one of the four lawyers as he tried to resist them.

The lawyer, identified as Muhit, was admitted to a city clinic with stab injuries.

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June Sun Rises Sun Sets
4 6-44pm
5 5-11 am

Prayer Timings

June 4
Fajr 4-15 4-45
Zohr 12-45 1-30
Asr 5-00 5-15
Maghrib 6-45 6-48
Esha 8-15 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

City Edition

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Absence of guidelines for high-rises threat to Dhaka's growth

REHAB roundtable in city told

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka has to grow vertically and a policy regarding high-rise buildings must be formulated to ensure healthy growth of the metropolis, experts observed at a Roundtable in the city yesterday.

The Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) organised the Roundtable on "Residential and Commercial High-rise buildings: How essential is it for the Megacity Dhaka?"

Speakers including architects, engineers, town planners, top government officials and real estate developers said that the policy must be framed immediately to face the pressure of an estimated 20 million people in the capital in 2020.

Although utility services are now grossly inadequate in the city, top officials from WASA,

Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) must be revised and made more reader friendly. High-rise buildings should be planned along the projected Eastern Bypass which would not only help solve housing problems but also contribute to construction of the bypass.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Ashikur Rahman in his speech as chief guest said that high-rise buildings should only be built in a planned way considering all aspects.

Chairman of Rajuk M Azizul Haque said they have to restrict building height in the densely populated areas of the city. "In these densely populated areas, we are unable to provide water, electricity and other services.

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Five-year tax holiday for new units under 16 sectors likely

Income tax net may be expanded in new budget

Income tax net is likely to be expanded in the upcoming national budget for 2000-2001 fiscal year by making individuals pay their taxes at source, reports UNB.

However, the ceiling of tax-free income may be raised to Tk 1,00,000 from the existing limit of Tk 75,000, sources at National Board of Revenue (NBR) hinted.

The industries with a paid up capital of over Tk 10 lakh or 100 per cent foreign investment will be eligible for tax holiday, they said.

The industries of Dhaka and Chittagong will get seven years of tax holiday while those of Barisal, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions and three hill districts will get eight years, sources said, adding that the tax holiday will be up to 80 per cent.

The facility of tax holiday will not be applicable for expansion of any existing industries, but 25 per cent of the ex-

penditure may be deducted from income as investment rebate, they added.

Officials said the coming budget will also propose steps to reduce import duties on industrial raw materials.

"Both the tax holiday and duty reduction on industrial raw materials are intended to speed up industrialisation in the country," said a senior official.

Sources said real estate companies will be brought under direct tax net while tax on motor vehicles may be raised.

The import duty on all sorts of synthetic and branded yarn may be withdrawn to help establish backward linkage industry in the country, officials said.

They said duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) on essential commodities are unlikely to be raised in the budget.

2 gunned down, bodies of 2 maids recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were gunned down and bodies of two women were recovered in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Siby Sadeque Hossain, 28, son of Shamshe Ali of 52 North Circular Road and Asaduzzaman Khan, 35, owner of Metro Hotel at Fakirpore in the city.

Sadeque was shot at 1 pm when Sujon group and Eskey group were locked in a clash in front of Compath near Hatirpool Bazar over supremacy in the area.

Police said Sadeque was an active member of Sujon group.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctor declared him dead.

The victim's brother filed a case with Dhamondi police in this connection.

In the other incident, businessman Asaduzzaman Khan and his friend Sabuj were shot by unidentified gunmen at Topkhana when they were boarding a car at about 8:30 pm.

Asaduzzaman is a resident of Khilgaon.

Asaduzzaman's driver Faizul Huq took them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Condition of Sabuj is stated to be critical, hospital sources said. The gunmen sprayed about 40 bullets into Asaduzzaman's body.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, body of maid Rehana 15, daughter of one Ab-

Kabir was confined for 6 months, says HR body

By Staff Correspondent

A 12-year-old boy was confined at the residence of an army officer at Banani in the city for about six months before he was arrested by Gulshan police on May 25, a human rights organisation said yesterday.

The boy named Kabir Hossain, a domestic help, was arrested on charges of raping and killing Kamrunnahar Ruma, 25, wife of Major Ashraf Haider, on December 6 last year, leaders of Bangladesh Manabadihikar Bastabayan Sangstha told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The body of Ruma was found hanging from the ceiling of bed room at their flat at the army staff quarters at Banani.

Kabir gave a confessional statement to police that he raped Ruma, killed her and hanged the body with the ceiling fan. But he denied it when pro-

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Sutrapur most densely populated area in the world

By Staff Correspondent

With 3,48,000 inhabitants per square kilometre, Dhaka's Sutrapur is the most densely populated area in the world, BUET Professor Shahidul Ameen said at a Roundtable in the city yesterday.

In the Kotwali area of the city, 2,63,000 people live in one square kilometre, making it

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Today's match

Today is a rest day

Tomorrow

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan (2-30 pm)

Your first

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A lofty expectation: Younus Youhana, closely follows the flightpath of the ball, with his heart in his mouth. The last ball sixer fetched him his coveted ton.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

India sent packing

Pakistan face SL in final Wednesday

By Al-Amin



they had left off against Bangladesh on Friday, plundering 74 runs off only 61 deliveries.

But the game took a dramatic turn once Indian leg-spinner Anil Kumble removed the marauding pair in between four deliveries.

The defeat ended the four-time champions' honeymoon in Dhaka, where they held an enviable 4-1 record against Pakistan before yesterday. The outcome also made tomorrow's final league match between holders Sri Lanka and Pakistan a dress rehearsal of the June 7 grand final.

The surprisingly facile victory for Pakistan was fashioned around a glorious unbeaten century by Younus Youhana followed a deadly spell from medium pacer Abdur Razzaq, who tore the heart out of the Indian batting claiming three wickets in a space of seven deliveries.

Everything went according to Pakistan's will once skipper Moin Khan won a good toss and decided to use the batsman-friendly wicket first.

Dashing left-handed opener Saeed Anwar and young buck Imran Nazir started from where

same score playing a lofted drive at long on.

Rocked by the initial onslaught by the left-right opening combination, India were over the moon when dangerman Inzamamul Haq fell in the very first ball of the next over. He dragged an in-swinger from medium-pacer Ajit Agarkar on to his stumps, and Pakistan were reduced to 75 for three in no time.

But the Pakistan's road to recovery began with a goal and collected Younus Youhana, who went to play a gem of an innings. A player, much in the mould of gritty Javed Miandad, the right-hander led the spectacular rebuilding operation.

Initially, Youhana nudged and pushed around the wicket

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View from the Gully

Youhana's classic ton

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

When a player like Azhar Mahmood or Abdur Razzaq comes in to bat at number nine, that team must be very strong in that department. India, who beat a sad retreat from the Pepsi Asia Cup on Saturday, had mostly their inept bowling to blame. How could a team of India's repute be sent with a couple of rookies and a mediocre medium pacer? The freakish move might be a mat-

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Beyond the Boundary

Of mice and men

By Shakil Kasem

Around the same time Mir Shahidullah and yours truly were assisting Musa at the Samarkand the previous night, to plan and plot the progress for his immediate future, one prospects Kapil Dev and Saurav Ganguly may well have been doing the same for India's cause in this competition. By late afternoon yesterday, it was however obviously and blatantly clear.

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Ministry favours talks with Niko for joint exploration in 3 'abandoned' fields

By Sharier Khan

negotiate a PSC.