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Wishing the  
BEST  
for the  
3rd Millennium

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RABIUL AWAL 5, 1421 HIJRI

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## Tower collapse South western region cut off from Nat'l Grid

By Staff Correspondent  
The south western region of the country was cut off from the National Power Grid shortly before yesterday noon when an electric tower of 132 kv Iswardi-Bheramara transmission line collapsed due to a storm, PDB sources said.

The tower which collapsed is at a place between Hardinge Bridge and Bheramara.

The sources said that the affected region was now getting power through bypass lines but supply was far less than the requirement, resulting in severe power disruption in the areas.

Locally generated power at Bheramara, Khulna and some other places were being used to meet the emergency needs in the region.

The worst affected districts are Khulna, Jhenidah, Jessore, Satkhira and Bagerhat.

When contacted at about 9:30 pm, a PDB control room source said,

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## BNP leaders to watch it on TV and analyse

By Staff Correspondent  
Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other top leaders of the party will watch the budget session together on TV today.

They will sit in front of a TV set at her official residence and hear the budget speech of Finance Minister SAMS Kibria in parliament and analyse the budget.

Sources said Khaleda Zia has asked top party leaders including Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman to come at her official residence in the afternoon (3pm) to hear the budget speech.

BNP leaders M Morshed Khan, M Shamsul Islam, Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, MK Anwar and Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan are also likely to hear the budget speech there on TV, they added.

A senior BNP leader, who wanted not to be named, said they will hear the budget speech together to analyse it to give reaction to the press in the evening.

## Tk 16 lakh looted from Korean co at CEPZ

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, June 7: A group of gunmen looted Tk 16 lakh from a Korean company at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) here this afternoon, police sources said.

The miscreants, numbering eight, stormed into the Lim's Ltd at 2:45 pm and looted the money drawn from bank for paying salary to the employees and workers, police and CEPZ sources said.

The terrorists came in a white microbus and each of them carried arms. They

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## Inside Today

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Budget Session of  
Parliament

### Why BNP is Reluctant to Attend?

by M Rezaul Karim  
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### Focus

Regenerating our universities; Budgetary provision for biotechnology  
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June Sun Rises Sun Sets  
8 6-45 pm  
9 5-10 am

### Prayer Timings

June 8  
Fajr 4-15 4-45  
Zohr 1-00 1-30  
Asr 5-00 5-15  
Maghrib 6-50 6-55  
Esha 8-15 8-45

# A budget of many questions

By Inam Ahmed

When Finance Minister SAMS Kibria will be in the parliament this afternoon, he will as well carry along a host of questions, the answers to which the nation will seek in his budget speech.

In his first budget of the new millennium, the finance minister will have to define what strategies he plans for the country to survive in a post-reform world.

The national budget for 2000-2001 is scheduled to be placed in parliament at 3:00 pm.

People will also want to know what will he do to the government out of the business of business and how he wants to jump on the fulcrum of growth to the manufacturing

As part of this, he may an-

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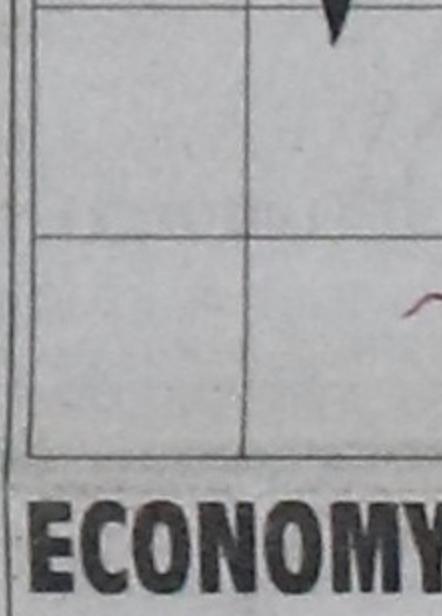
### Some probable measures

#### Star Report

Eyed industrial growth as a major proponent for growth, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria is likely to announce a number of measures to revamp the manufacturing sector.

As part of this, he may an-

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## Budget: A holistic approach will ensure stability, development

By Rafiq Hasan

Senior corporate executives expect that the next budget will take a holistic approach, bringing stability in the political arena and ensuring rule of law.

If that happens, economic development would follow automatically, they observed.

On the fiscal issues they want rationalisation of income and corporate taxation, lowering of the bank interest rate for industrial lending, increase in export incentives, urgent measures to minimise fiscal deficit and efforts to improve the budget for the year 2000-2001.

They said the existing rates

of income and corporate tax are already high and these should not increase while the tax network should be widened. They also expressed concern over widening of the fiscal deficit and suggested drastic measures to close the gap.

They suggested an extension of tax holiday for another five years and withdrawal of taxes and duties on some items.

The Daily Star approached a number of chief executives and senior officials at corporate houses of the country to know what they expect of the budget for the year 2000-2001.

A K M Shamsuddin, manag-

ing director of Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Bangladesh, said he expects the budget 2000-2001 will rationalise and simplify income and corporate taxation.

The present maximum rate of 25 per cent income tax for individuals is acceptable but the basic exemption limit should at least be Tk one lakh, he said.

About foreign investment and industrial growth, he said political instability, law and order situation, bureaucratic bottlenecks and lack of policy guidelines discourage investment.

He suggested opening up the

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## BNP may join JS session any day for a few minutes

By Rezaul Karim

BNP has decided that party lawmakers must not lose Jatiya Sangsad membership on the ground of 90-day absence from the House, may join the current session any day for a few minutes and sign the attendance register.

Sources concerned said political makers of the party have decided that its lawmakers would neither resign from parliament nor step into the 'trap' of 90-day absence.

The decision was taken apprehending that the government might arrange by-polls in the vacant seats and then go for a rejoinder and our position

By Staff Correspondent  
M Saidur Rahman and Syed Shahidur Rahman, former secretary and treasurer respectively of the Supreme Court Bar Association, in a rejoinder yesterday said the story titled "Misappropriation charge against former secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association", published in The Daily Star on June 5 is "false, total and malafide".

The report has been published with the intention to disparage and defame their pro-

### Man of the Match



Moin Khan of  
Pakistan



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PEPSI  
ASIA CUP



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over the Pepsi Asia Cup trophy to Pakistan captain Moin Khan after the final (left), and Pakistan's star batsman Inzamamul Haq plays one down fine leg on his way to an unbeaten 72 off 66 balls in the final of the Pepsi Asia Cup at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.



—Star photos

## Asia Cup eludes Pakistan no more

By Al-Amin

Pakistan captured the eluding Asia Cup last night by defeating defending champions Sri Lanka by 39 runs in the final of the seventh edition at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

It was a dream come true for the former world champions when skipper Moin Khan, leading his side from the front, held aloft the Pepsi Asia Cup amidst deafening applause from the capacity crowd at the big bowl.

Having mysteriously failed to win the premium regional event, touted as the most prestigious tournament after the World Cup, since its introduction way back in 1984, Pakistan finally proved that they are the best combative force in this part of the world, at least this time around.

It was also a night Moin

would remember for a long time, not because of making it a habit of winning tournaments since he took over from Akram, but for his hurricane 31-ball 56

that eventually took the Pakistan score to a mammoth 277 for four in 50 overs.

A never-say-die Sri Lanka fought gamely with Marvan At-

apattu hammering a superb 100, but the winners of the previous edition ran out of steam, managing 238 for nine in 45.2 overs. The Pakistan celebration started when last Sri Lankan batsman Kaushalya Weeratne did not turn up to bat after Abdur Razzaq had Muttiah Muralitharan caught at long on.

Although Sri Lanka played their hearts out chasing an imposing 278, it was their pathetic fielding earlier on the day that proved to have the final say on the outcome of the game. Believe it or not, the otherwise athletic islanders known for their exploits of turning half chances into catches dropped as many as six sitters.

But of all the blunders, the fifth and the sixth against Moin Khan proved to be the costliest.

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### View from the Gully

## A thriller indeed

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

It was a cliffhanger by all accounts. The spectators and viewers were kept on the edge of their seats from the very first ball. There was hardly anything to choose between the two teams on Wednesday.

But one gets the feeling that the losers could not play to their full potential, particularly in batting and fielding.

The Pakistanis were plummeting in the middle overs of their innings although Muttiah Muralitharan bowled intelligently and the Pakistani batsmen resorted to somewhat tendency of self-preservation. Then came the combative Pakistani cap-

tain Moin Khan to take the slow-paced proceedings by storm.

Together with a limping Inzamam the lion-hearted wicket-keeper, who tends to flourish when the chips are down, took his team to such a position that only a rabid fan could ever think of, specially at that stage of the game. But this imposing Pakistan total also came under a real threat from an in-form Marvan Atapattu, who displayed yet another masterly innings. Sri Lankans were probably close to the Pakistan

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### Beyond the Boundary

## Set free at last

By Shakil Kasem

The afternoon got off to a rather shaky and uneventful start. The Club wore a deserted look, not many had arrived yet. Surprisingly however, Asif Ibrahim was a lone shadowy figure beneath the overhanging lights of the billiards table. At 2 o'clock? Was something in the offing? The upshot of all, I was asked to play a frame. Surprise in store again, I actually won. What was it that Asif was trying to pull? Was it pre-ordained or had Asif planned it without me, unsuspecting as always, knowing it was fixed beforehand? You owe me an explanation Asif. And it had bet-

ter be good. I have a lot to answer for in any event, without having question marks hanging over me.

Back in the Lounge, Musa had checked in and Adnan Mansur too sent an urgent message that he would be joining soon. The final was underway, and the regulars needed to exchange notes and publicly voice their two cents worth. Not for nothing are we called a knowledgeable cricket lot all across the globe. Yet the match seemed to be meandering in a mystifying manner. Was this motley yet expert (?) lot missing some-

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RANGS  
TOSHIBA  
TV-FRIDGE-VCD-AC

Better Cricket & Better Banking  
DHAKA BANK  
LIMITED  
SERVICES THAT MATCH THE DEMAND OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM

## Suicide bomber kills Lankan minister, 20 others

COLOMBO, June 7: A suicide bomber detonated an explosion in the industrial suburbs of Colombo, as police officers gathered pieces of flesh and debris from the roadway.

Twenty-one people were killed, including Minister for Industrial Development C V Gooneratne, said the director of Kaluwewila Hospital, Dr W G Gunawardena.

Gooneratne is the first minister of the current government to be assassinated.

Gunawardena said the minister's wife was one of seven people in serious condition and a total of 60 injured had been brought to the hospital for treatment.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

However, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who have fought for 17 years to cre-

ate a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the north and east, have a unit of suicide bombers known as the Black Tigers, who are known for targeting government officials.

One of the politician's supporters told The Associated Press that the bomber had gotten out of a three-wheeler taxi and approached the minister as the explosion was set off.

The method has been used in the past to assassinate high-ranking politicians, including President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The Tamil Tigers denied they killed Gandhi and never commented on Premadasa's death.

About half of the group's

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NBR chief challenges Bangabazar Patrika

By Staff Correspondent  
Abdul Muyeed Choudhury, Chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR), has challenged the Editor of the Bangabazar Patrika to produce documentary evidence about the story it published first on Sunday and again yesterday (Wednesday) claiming that he had written a secret letter to the Prime Minister stating that shortfall in revenue were due to toll collection, tax evasion, corruption