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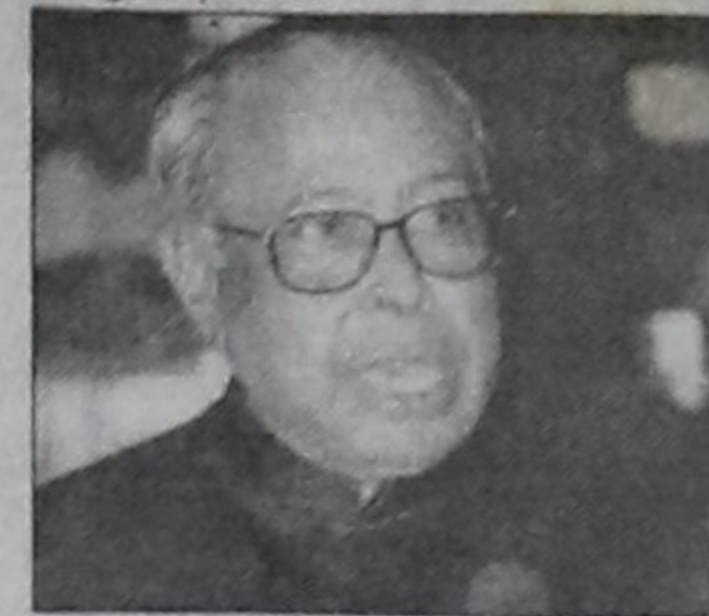
Holding summits is necessary for Saarc
to advance. Powerful states must not
violate the Saarc spirit with their hostility
and inherent suspiciousness, writes
Ekram Kabir

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THE BUDGET

Full text of budget speech

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SSC exam results June 11

Results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under five education boards will be published on June 11 simultaneously, reports UNB.

The results will be announced at 4 pm on the day from the respective examination centres, said an official handout yesterday.

The results of the SSC (Vocational) examinations under Bangladesh Technical Education Board will also be published the same day.

The examinees are advised to contact their respective centres for results. Results will not be available at the Education Ministry, Board or newspaper offices.

GDP growth rate 5.5 pc

By Staff Correspondent

The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in fiscal 1999-2000 fiscal has been calculated at 5.5 per cent, according to the new index. It is six per cent as per the old index.

In the new index, GDP is calculated basing on the price index of 1995-96 and in the old index, 1984-85 is taken as the base year.

The GDP growth rate was 4.9 per cent in fiscal 1998-99 and 5.2 per cent in 1997-98, according to Economic Survey 2000. As per current price, the GDP growth rate stood at 9.82 per cent in fiscal 1999-2000 and 9.75 per cent in the fiscal 1998-99.

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7pc increase in defence budget

By Staff Correspondent

The government has proposed an allocation of Tk. 3206 crore for defence in 2000-2001 fiscal, a seven per cent rise from that of previous financial year.

"Considering the needs for national defence, I propose an allocation of Tk 3206 crore in the budget for 2000-2001. This proposed allocation for defence forces is 7 per cent higher than that of the original allocation for 1999-2000," said Finance Minister SAMS Kibria in his budget speech yesterday.

In the proposed budget, Tk 3206 crore is earmarked for defence as revenue expenditure. Besides, there is an additional allocation of Tk 72 crore for other expenditures under the Ministry of Defence. The defence budget was worth Tk 3067 crore in original budget of 1999-2000 and later it was Tk. 3217 crore in the revised budget.

Another Tk. 14 crore has been allocated for defence services in 2000-2001 for development expenditure. The allocation was more than double (Tk. 30 crore) in the 1999-2000 budget.

Highlights

The following are the highlights of the proposed national budget for 2000-2001, reports BSS.

No new tax proposed. Import duty, in most cases, reduced to help accelerate industrialisation.

Taka 15 cr special scheme for monthly allowance for distressed freedom fighters.

Revenue surplus of Taka 4565 cr.

Enhancement of supplementary duty from 100 per cent to 200 per cent on import of two-stroke auto-rickshaw and tempo engines and chassis.

Supplementary duty at all phases of import and production of black poly-bags.

Duty-free import of life savings baby incubators.

Further reduction of import duty on items used for agro-based industries.

Drastic reduction of duty on import of items like dye, chemical, moisturising, starch, glue and gum, etc. for the promotion of backward linkage units of the ready-made garments sector.

All forms of taxes, including VAT, have been waived for 2000-2001.

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Accent on industries

Tk 42859cr deficit budget proposed

By Inam Ahmed and
M Anwarul Haq



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signs the attendance register for the MPs as Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria looks on minutes before the latter placed the budget for 2000-01 at the parliament yesterday.

—Star photo

Realising that growth in industrial sector, which now accounts for 25 per cent of the GDP, is a must to prop the country up on a higher growth path, Finance Minister SAM Kibria yesterday proposed a budget for fiscal 2000-2001 which envisages special measures to reduce lending rates, cut raw material costs and propel exports.

By proposing to issue Tk 1800 crore interest earning bonds to the nationalised commercial banks to pay up the 'dead weight' debts of state-owned enterprises, the finance minister has effectively addressed the reduction of provision for banks and thereby helping interest rate cut.

On top of that, he also proposed an allocation of Tk 100 crore for establishing an equity development fund for investments in viable software, food processing and agro-processing industries.

The proposed national budget for fiscal 2000-2001 was placed in the parliament.

Simultaneously, Kibria also kept provision for subsidy and other assistance to the tune of Tk 632 crore for selected export items.

Acknowledging that the

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Full of rhetoric: Moeen Budget fabricated, says Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has termed the new budget "false, fabricated, unrealistic and imaginary."

"The people who do not understand the economy have prepared such an unrealistic budget," he said in an instant reaction on the new budget over telephone.

The BNP leader said the main objective of the finance minister was to deceive the people. He also termed it an election budget.

The government projection of providing 52 per cent development expenditure from domestic resources is not realistic, Saifur said.

The government's revenue collection target was highly ambitious, he added.

"The government has tried to deceive people with promises which would not be kept. As the budget has no realistic vision, it would create problem for every

sector. The government wants to borrow more money from the banking sector which would affect the macroeconomic stability, increase the rate of inflation and widen fiscal deficit."

Borrowing from the banking sector would also create pressure on the revenue budget, he said.

Regarding subsidy in the agriculture sector, Rahman expressed doubt whether it would be provided at all.

Even after providing subsidy in the agriculture sector the price of fertiliser increased during this government. The fertiliser use by the farmers also did not increase over the years. Had the farmers used more fertiliser production would have increased."

He alleged that through this budget the Awami League government tried to show that they were doing well.

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BNP vows to resist 'anti-people' budget

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties, including the BNP, have rejected the proposed national budget for 2000-2001 fiscal, terming it "exploratory, hoax, full of lies and non-transparent."

They vowed to build resistance against this "anti-people" budget.

BNP and its student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the student wing of Jatiya Party, brought out separate processions in the city immediately after the finance minister concluded his budget speech in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Leaders and activists of the BNP brought out a procession from the central office in the

evening blasting the budget. BNP leaders Sadek Hossain Khoka, Alamgir Kabir, ZA Khan, Amanullah Aman and Zainal Abedin Faruq led the procession.

The procession was followed with a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club which was addressed by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Bhuiyan said this budget is a document of the "incompetence and failure" of the Awami League government. He said the first part of the budget is "full of lies."

He said the government suppressed information in the budget, which again proved beyond a shred of doubt its failure in

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Proposal to ban import of autorickshaws

By Special Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday proposed a ban on import of auto-rickshaws and auto-tempos using two-stroke engines and also chassis of these vehicles fitted with such engines.

These vehicles are blamed for increasing air pollution in urban areas.

In his budget speech in parliament yesterday, Kibria said

he is making the proposal following recommendations of the ministries of commerce and environment and a strong demand from the civil society to protect people from serious air pollution.

Such a ban will not affect existing auto-rickshaw or tempo owners because bank loans on easy terms will be provided so

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No new tax, scope to whiten black money

By Special Correspondent

The national budget for fiscal 2000-2001 proposes no new taxes, raising of personal income tax ceiling to Tk 100,000 from Tk 75,000, tax holiday for various industries including tourism industry and infrastructure up to 2002 and facility to 'whiten' the 'black money' by paying 10 per cent tax.

The other proposed incentives include tax relief on investment of Tk 200,000 in place of Tk 150,000 now and in case of public limited company shares Tk 225,000, tax exemption for donations to welfare organisations for the disabled and 100 per cent charitable hospitals outside city corpora-

tion areas and income from micro credit.

As regards income tax reforms, the new budget proposes that assesses whose net wealth at acquisition cost exceeds Tk 30 lakh.

The last date for submission of income tax returns has been extended to September 30 from September 15.

The ceiling of 'initial capital' has been in-

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Budget at a Glance

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2000-01	Revised 1999-2000	Budget 1999-2000
Consolidated Fund—Revenue Receipts			
Tax Revenue	19277	17096	18635
Non-Tax Revenue	4921	4249	5516
Total:	24198	21345	24151
Consolidated Fund—Expenditure			
Non-Development Revenue Expenditure	19633	18444	17800
Annual Development Programme	17500	16500	15500
Non ADP Project	413	193	197
Capital Expenditure (B2 Statement 5)	544	191	493
Domestic Loans Advances (Net)	1311	-247	-457
Net Outlay for Food Account Operation	395	-9	224
Non-ADP FFW Included in Development Budget	583	806	571
Repayment of Foreign Loan	2480	2075	1850
Total:	42859	37953	36178
Overall Deficit:	18661	16608	12027
Financed by:			
External Sources			
Foreign Grants	3183	3609	3269
Foreign Borrowing	6238	5223	5091
Total External Sources:	9421	8832	8360
Domestic Sources			
Term Debt (Net)	2129	297	179
Extra Budgetary Resources/Self Financing	250	250	250
Departmental Financing (T&T Bond)	200	171	171
Public Account Transactions (Net)	3147	3124	3067
Total Domestic Sources:	5726	3842	3667
Borrowing from Banking System:	8514	3934	0
Total Financing:	18661	16608	12027



Tax cut on industrial raw materials, tools

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria proposed tax cut on industrial raw materials and machinery, specially those used in thrust sectors to infuse vitality in the manufacturing sector and boost export.

"Our policy to increase export, help flourish local industries, ease customs procedures, rationalise duty structure, encourage agro-based industries, discourage and prevent smuggling and make consumer goods available to the people at reasonable prices will continue in this budget," Kibria said while proposing in parliament the new tax measures for fiscal 2000-2001.

He proposed duty cut on raw materials used in textile, leather, ceramic, agro-processing, melamine, footwear and some other industries.

5 per cent for basic raw materials, 15 and 25 per cent for intermediate and semi-finished goods and 37.5 per cent for finished goods will continue, he said.

Import duty has been proposed to be reduced to 5 per cent from existing 15 per cent on metalised plastic film used in textile industry (loom) and synthetic organic colouring material and 25 per cent on finishing agent and dyeing stuff.

The finance minister also proposed withdrawal of supplementary duty on silk yarn and auxiliary machinery used in textile and jute mills.

Duty on zinc oxide, aluminium hydro, barium carbonate and decalcomania paper, all used in ceramic industry, has been reduced to 5 per cent from existing 15 per cent.

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Election Commission Secretariat Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

NOTICE

Voters' List Programme

- * Work of preparing voters' list is in progress countrywide.
- * The data collectors are visiting house to house to make voters all who are eligible as such.
- * The work of voters' data collection & verification will be finished on 14th June, 2000. So any one who has not already become a voter, has to become one within this time.
- * Those who could not become voters as yet, may contact the Data Collector, Assistant Registration Officer, Thana/Upazila Polling Officer or District Polling Officer of the respective area to become voters.
- * For necessary cooperation in matters of becoming a voter, you may contact the Control Room of Election Commission. Control Room Telephone Nos: 9129773 & 9129033.

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