

Indian industry expects stimulus budget despite quake impact

REUTERS, New Delhi
Indian industry leaders say they still expect the government to deliver a stimulus budget despite the huge costs it faces for rebuilding the earthquake-ravaged western state of Gujarat.

Sinha is due to present the budget for 2001/2002 (April-March) on February 28.
Figures this week showed that industrial production growth slid to 3.4 per cent in December from 8.1 per cent a year earlier.

Higher infrastructure investments would also mean a pickup in demand for basic commodities like cement and steel and help reverse the slowdown in the manufacturing sector, he said.
India's economy has been hit by a combination of high global oil prices, a weak rupee and easing of import restrictions.

India ended 1999/2000 with a fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent and aims to rein in the deficit to 5.1 per cent this year.
'I still think fiscal deficit would be down to five per cent in 2000/01 and the finance minister will announce a further reduction to 4.7 for 2001/02,' said Das.



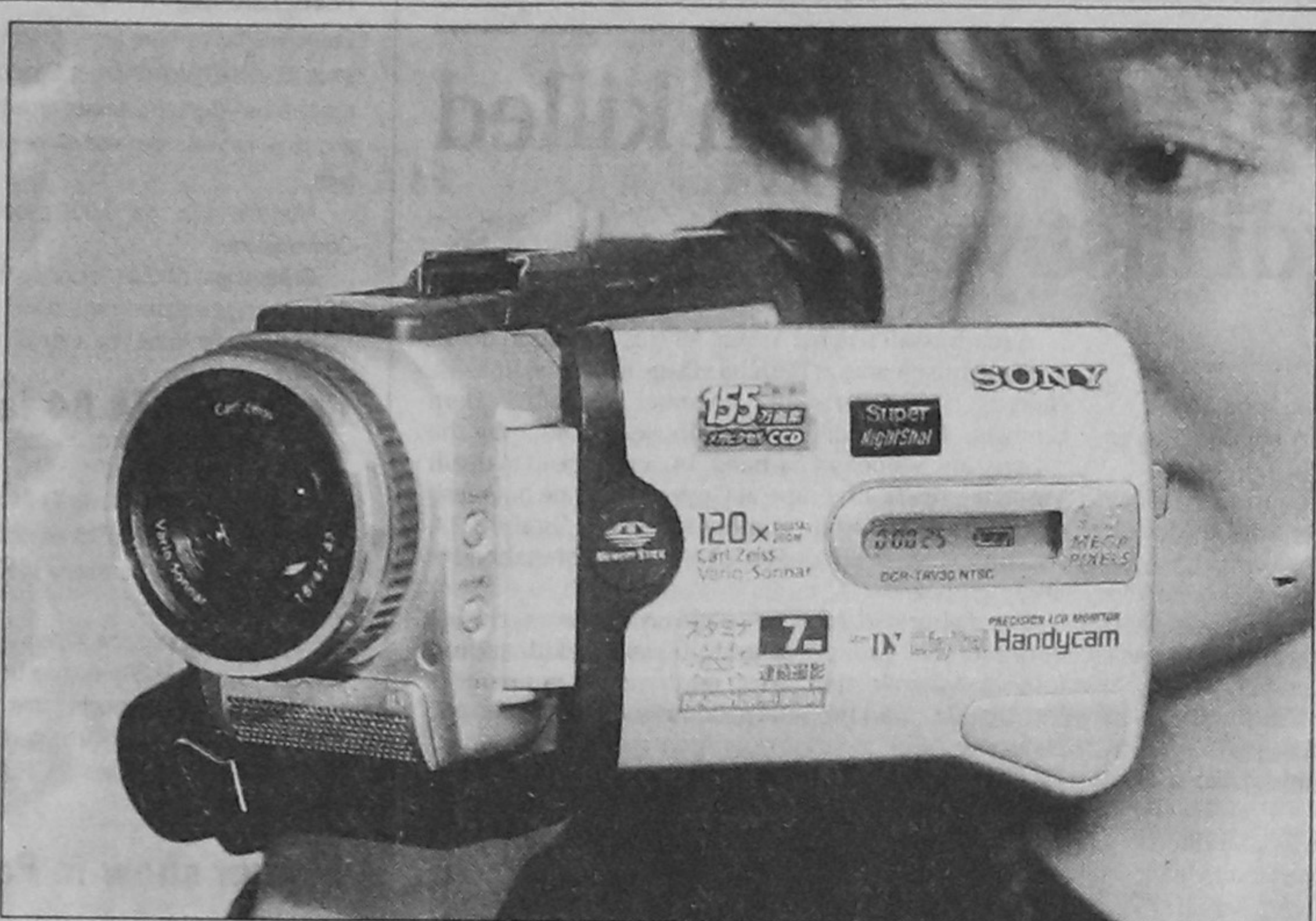
Anwarul Islam Bobby's death anniversary

The seventh death anniversary of renowned journalist Anwarul Islam Bobby will be observed today, says a press release.
A feeding of the destitute programme will be held today to mark the occasion.

BOJ sees no need to return to zero rate policy

AFP, Tokyo

The governor of the Bank of Japan said Wednesday that he saw no need for Japan to return to a zero interest rate policy.
'To lend money overnight at zero rate in a capitalist economy, one must feel in extreme danger of a deflationary spiral,' the BOJ governor Masaru Hayami, told reporters.



Japan's electronics giant Sony unveils the world's first 1.5 mega-pixel digital video camcorder 'Handycam DCR-TRV30' at the company's headquarters in Tokyo 14 February 2001.

Grameen CyberNet remains inoperative

UNB, Dhaka

A day after the temporary collapse of Grameen Phone network, subscribers of Grameen CyberNet yesterday couldn't use the Internet for hours as the systems remained down.
Officials at the Grameen CyberNet said the system remained down in the afternoon while they worked to upgrade their primary DNS (domain name service) address.

WEATHER TODAY
Dry weather forecast
UNB, Dhaka
Weather will remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi Division in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

DHAKA TODAY

Competition
Nazrul Institute inaugurates 5-day long children's competitions on drawing, recitation, music, dance and handwriting on occasion of International Mother Tongue Day and Ekushey February.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of the Bangla adaptation of Dr Patricia Sonksen and Blanche Stiff's illustrated book on a programme for visual development for infants and children Show Me What My Friends Can See will be held.

Optica 2001
Bangladesh Optical Traders and Industries Association begins a 3-day long fair titled 'Bangla Optica 2001'.

Human chain
Sylhet Division Development Action Council will organise a human chain in support of their demand for state honours for Maj Gen M A G Osman.

Discussion meeting
Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir will hold a discussion meeting to mark the birth anniversary of writer Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas.

Cultural programme
Dishli, a cultural organisation will hold an evening of recitation and music to mark its 15th founding anniversary.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Int'l Poultry show
World Poultry Science Association, Bangladesh branch will begin the 2nd International Poultry Show and Seminar.

Film show
Documentaries on French filmmakers Philippe Gamel and Agnes Varda and the movie 'The Fifth Element' will be screened.

Fund raising event
Zonta Club IV will hold its annual fund raising event and lunch in aid of and burn victims and The Day Care Centre for children of the garments workers.

Art exhibition
Gallery 21 inaugurates a 10-day long solo exhibition of artworks by Dilara Begum Jolly.

Tabla recital
Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents a solo tabla recital by Ustad Sabir Mokammel.

Debate
Platform to Resist Violence Against Women will hold a debate on 'Failure of govt responsible for violence against women and children'.

Conference
Bangladesh Writers' Club will hold its conference 2001.

Postponed
The Publication Ceremony of 'Ganotantrayone NGO' by Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN) scheduled to be held at the WVA auditorium today has been postponed.

Bangladesh Bank
The viva-voce for the appointment of director general of the engineering department of Bangladesh Bank, scheduled to be held today, has been postponed.

Bangladesh Bank
A fresh date for the viva will be announced later, the release added.



Prof Dr Mazhar Ali Kaderi laying a wreath at the graveyard of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recently. Kaderi is the newly elected parliament member from the Pabna-5 constituency.



Prof. Dr Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, BUET handing over certificates among the participants at the concluding ceremony of a training workshop on 'Tensile Membrane Structures'.



Majid Al Mualla, Manager, Bangladesh of Emirates speaking at a press briefing on the launching of Dubai Shopping Festival-2001 at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

BCL blames BNP for Tuesday's killings
Bishwa Asheke Rasul confce tomorrow
DU CORRESPONDENT

Ruling party backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhtra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession in the city in protest of the opposition sponsored hartal.
Starting from the Dhaka University campus, the procession paraded towards the Shikha Bhaban in the city and placed wreath at the monument in front of the Shikha Bhaban at noon to mark Shaheed Day.

CURRENCY

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SHIPPING

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Table with columns for Name of vessels, Cargo, L port call, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Chehlum

BSS, Dhaka
Chehlum of Mohammad Islam Chowdhury, former Deputy Secretary will be held at his village home at Bhingrol Chowdhury Bari under Chittagong district on Friday.

Death anniversary
The first death anniversary of former speaker of the Jatiyo Sangsad, Shamsul Huda Chaudhury, will be observed today.

Obituary
Nurjahan Khatun died on February 12. She was 75, says a press release.

Shell Companies in Bangladesh
Please be advised that, effective from 8 February 2001, Shell Bangladesh Marketing Limited has relocated its registered office from its old location to the offices of Shell Bangladesh Exploration and Development B.V.