BUSINESS & METROPOLITAN

Indian industry expects stimulus budget despite quake impact

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian industry leaders say they February 28. still expect the government to delivery a stimulus budget despite industrial production growth slid the huge costs it faces for rebuilding the earthquake-ravaged west- 8.1 per cent a year earlier. ern state of Gujarat.

growth-oriented, recovery-oriented budget...post-earthquake," the government to revive the Tarun Das, secretary-general of economy, economists said. the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), told Reuters.

In fact, with evidence piling up that India is in the grips of an economic slowdown, industry leaders ments to boost growth. said a strategy to jump-start the

most populous nation was vital. "A strategy for long-term recovery is all the more necessary now," Shekhar Bajaj, president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India. said. "I feel the budget will bring

back the feel-good factor."

BOJ sees no need

to return to zero

The governor of the Bank of Japan

said Wednesday that he saw no

need for Japan to return to a zero

zero rate in a capitalist economy.

one must feel in extreme danger of

a deflationary spiral," the Bol gov-

ernor Masaru Hayami, told re-

take such a measure at this point."

abandoned its 18-month-old zero-

rate monetary policy in August.

lifting interest rates for the first

time in a decade in a move which

However, Hayami reiterated

"The economy continues to re-

is still sparking political protests.

the central bank's core economic

assessment of Japanese economy.

cover gradually but the pace is

slowing due to decelerating export

released Tuesday.

growth.

To lend money overnight at

"It does not make any sense to

The independent central bank

rate policy

interest rate policy.

AFP, Tokyo

porters.

he said.

Sinha is due to present the budget terest in infrastructure invest- Bajaj. for 2001/2002 (April-March) on ment," said Das.

Figures this week showed that to 3.4 per cent in December from

It was the poorest monthly "I'm expecting a strongly performance in over two years and underlined the challenge facing

Industry groups said they were counting on the government to cut spending and announce longer tax holidays for infrastructure invest-

This month, the government economy of the world's second statistics agency forecast 2000/2001 growth at six percent Earlier the government had projected growth of around 6.5 per cent. The economy expanded by 6.4 per cent in 1999/2000.

"Infrastructure investment will spur growth in this country by Finance Minister Yashwant see a package which will fuel in- lion rupees can be raised," said tion of towns and villages.

ments 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.

Industry leaders said they also expected the government to carry through with pledges to step up its privatisation drive.

The government set a target of raising 100 billion rupees from the privatisation proceeds of state-run firms this year. But it has not raised a single rupee so far, stymied by union opposition and differences within the ruling coalition.

In addition, the industry Higher infrastructure invest- groups are counting on Sinha to take steps to close the gaping fiscal deficit. He recently introduced bill to control government bor-

> hopeful he would do more in the India ended 1999/2000 with a fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent and aims to rein in the deficit to 5.1 per

> rowings and industry leaders were

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. He said controlling the deficit would ease pressure on interest rates and says a press release. spur growth.

huge repair bill for last month's the occasion. quake had virtually ruled out chances of tax cuts. The quake of The Daily Life of Chittagong, the "That's one thing that needs to killed upwards of 30,000 people Pulse and the Morning Sun. generating demand. Therefore 1 be expedited. Some 200-300 bil- and caused widespread devasta-



AFP PHOTO/Yoshikazu TSUNO

Japan's electronics giant Sony unveils the world's first 1.5 mega-pixel digital video camcorder "Handycam DCR-TRV30" at the company's headquaters in Tokyo 14 February 2001. The DCR-TRV30 is equiped with1/4-inch 1.55 million-pixel CCD on its image sensor and Carl Zeiss' Vario-Sonnar 4.2-42mm/F1.8-2.2 zoom lens. Sony will put it on the market 20 March with estimated price of 180,000 yen (1,540 USD).

CURRENCY

Follow	wing	g is yester tral bank	day	s forex trading ng and selling t	statement by	Sta	ndard Cha	arter	ed Bank	
Selling			Currency		Buying					
TT/OD		BC			TT Clean		OD S	ight	OD Transfer	
54.2500		54 2800)	USD	53.8150		53.6464	1	53.5779	
50.3523		50.4392	400	EUR	49.1536		48.9702		488936	
79.2670	79.2670 79.3090		GBP	77.7705		77,5040)	77.4494		
29.2739 29.2984			AUD	28.2182		28.1258	}	28.0456		
0.4688		0.4689		JPY	0.4568		0.4566		0.4556	
32.6569	32.6569 32.6814		CHF	321097				31.9306		
5.5638	5.5689		SEK	5.4711		5.4535		5.4375		
35.7959		35.8204		CAD	35.2268		35.1331		35.0500	
6.9598		6.9611		HKD	6.8984	6.8984		6.8807		
31.195		31.2165		SGD	30.7599	30.7599		30.7161		
14.8919 14.9095			AED	14.5023		14.5242		30.6014 14.4838		
14.5803 14.5987			SAR	14.2433		The second secon		14.1884		
				Usance	export bills				219	
TT Doc		30 Days		60 Days	90 Days		120 Day	S	180 Days	
53.7041 53.372		53.3727		52.9304	52.4217		51.8688		50.6303	
	E	change	rate	s of some Asia	an currencies	ag	ainst US o	dolla	-	
Indian Rupee PAK Rupee		Thai Baht	Lankan Rup		Indo Rupiah		NZ Dollar			
46.53/46.58 58.45/59.5		55	42.37/42.40	86.10/86.6				0.4331/0.4338		
		US dol	lar				LIBOR	. 13		
	B	uying	Sel	ling	Months	1	LAME	939	3	
Cash notes	5	3.6150	5	4.2800	USD	5	56875%	5	5.38875%	
TC	5	3.5650	5	4.2600	GBP	5	79281%	-	75625%	



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.

Old address: Shell House

121b Gulshan Avenue Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

New address: IDB Bhaban (9th Floor) E-8/A Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,

Dhaka-1207

The office of Shell Hydrocarbons Holdings B.V. is also registered at the same address.

All Shell companies currently operating in Bangladesh now have their registered offices at the following address:

IDB Bhaban (9th Floor) E-8/A Rokeya Sharani Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh Tel: +880 (0)2 8828194 Fax: +880 (0)2 9882947 Email: External.Affairs@sbed.shell.com

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth no	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
1/1	Southern Queen	GI(Copra)	Sing	Aeka	28/11	
1/2	Shun Yi	Wehat(P)	Tuti	PSAL.	4/2	22/2
1/3	Ion lin	C.Clink	Tans	NWSI.	7/2	22/2
1/4	Oriental Queen	C.Clink	Kant	RML.	2/2	18/2
J/5	Triumph HongKong	g P.mat	Hald	RMI	12/2	16/2
1/6	Ganga Nagra	GI(YP/RS)	Sing	USL	9/2	23/2
117	Shun Cheng	GI	Sing	Seaglory		18/2
1/8	Jiris Avots (E/L)	E/L	D.Butt	Mmi	12/2	
1/9	Wei Shan	Urea (BCIC)	Nank	Apex	1/2	19/2
J/10	Emma Oldendorff	GI(St.St)	Chani	RSA	7/2	14/2
1/11	River River	Cont	Sing	NBL	5/2	15/2
1/12	Arabella	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	6/2	16/2
1/13	Jaami	Cont	Sing	CROSS	10/2	27/2
CCT/1	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	3/2	14/2
CCT/2	Qc Teal	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	8/2	15/2
CT/3	Jurong Balsam	Cont	Sing	NOL	4/2	15/2
RM/14	Banglar Kallol	IDLE	K.Dia	Lams	27/1	15/2
CCI	Togo Charm	C.Clink	Kushi	Seacom	11/2	16/2
ISP	Piran	Rphos	Sing	Seacoast		14/2
RM/4	Timur Queen	Сро	Belw	Rainbow		
RM/5	Dallong	Hsd	Juba	ECSL	9/2	14/2
DOL	Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil		BSC	R/A	14/2

Cement Lang RSI

Sorty Mary Moth		ement	Lang B	ISL 4/2	20/2			
Vessels due at outer anchorage								
Name of vessels	Date of	L. Port	Local	Cargo	Loading			
	arrival	call	agent	0	port			
Tug Seaways-4	14/2	Sing	Otbl	Cargo				
Bombay	14/2	-	Rml	R.Phos				
Dea Captain	14/2	Sing	Arafeen	P.Mat				
Banga Biraj (Cont) 01/2	14/2	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing			
Dannau Toba (72) 28/1	16/2	Yang	Everett	Gi(St.C)	omig			
A.A. Venture	16/2	Kara	Cla	Rice(P)+GI				
Xpress Nuptse (Cont) 10/2	15/2	*	Everbest		Sing			
Patehein	19/2	Yang	MTA	Rice(P)	ouig			
Xpress Renown (Cont 8/2	18/2	-	RSI.	Cont	Sing			
Banglar Robi (Cont) 11/2	19/2	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing			
Thor Sailor	17/2	Aust	USL	GI (Cano In	Bulk)			
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont) 10	/2 17/2		TIL	Cont	Sing			
Qc Pintail (Cont) 5/2	18/2		QCSL	Cont	Sing			
Kota Cahaya (Cont) 10/2	18/2	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing			
Enos	18/2	Yang	SMSL.	Gl(maize)	om B			
DA FA (Cont) 8/2	19/2	-	RSL	Cont	Sing			
Banglar Shikha (Cont) 11/2	19/2	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing			
K. Necolas (72) 11/2	19/2		Everett	GI(St.GI)	Sing			
Jaya Mars (Cont) 12/2	19/2		RSL	Cont	Sing			
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 12/2	24/2	2000	RSL	Cont	Sing			
Banga Lanka (Cont) 10/2	20/2		Bdship	Cont	Sing			
San Mateo (Roro/24)4/2	20/2	Sing	JF	Vehi	- Simb			
Kota Bintang (Cont) 10/2	21/2	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing			
Kota Naga (Cont) 10/2	22/2	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing			
The second secon	Action and the last of the last	Address of the same of the sam			2,119			

Kota Naga (Cont) 10/2	22/2	Sing	Pil(BD		Sing
	Tai	nker di	ie		-
Commiter 16/2	Juba	i	ECSL	HSD	
Name of vessels	Cargo	L	port	Local -	Date of
Vessels at Kutubdia		c	all	agent	arrival
Energy Explorer-IV				BBAL	5/4
Ismaya				Arafeen	17/8
Dea Conquerror				Arafeen	R/A (31/12)
Dea Champion	*	S	ing	Arafeen	5/2
Seabulk Command		*		1BS	R/A (20/1)
Danat Qatar	C.Oil	Je	ebe	USS	10/2
Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	-		BSC	R/A(11/2)
Vess	sels at o	outer a	nchora	ge	

Kota Singa (Cont) Cont Sing Pil (BD) City of Houstom Gi/Rice Yang OWSL 4/2 Kuo Hsiting(Cont) Cont P Kel QCSL 13/2 Banga Birol (Cont) Cont P Kel Bdship 13/2 Svendbord Uardian P Mat Masa Everett 13/2 Acturia (Cont) Cont P Kel QCSL Banga Bonik (Cont) Cont Col Baship The above are shipping position, and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port

as per benthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Ready on



Anwarul Islam Bobby's death anniversary

The seventh death anniversary of renowned journalist Anwarul Is lam Bobby will be observed today,

A feeding of the destitute pro-But industry groups said the gramme will be held today to mark

Bobby was the founding editor

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 CvberNet said the system remained down in the afternoon while they worked to upgrade their primary DNS (domain name service) ad-

Many Grameen subscribers wondered why they were not informed before that the system would not work, which is a common practice for the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) across the world.

A Grameen Cybernet official said that they had earlier on February 13 mailed all their subscribers informing them that the DNS address will be changed, which means that the systems will remain inoperative for some time. But many Grameen subscribers said that the February 13 mail stated that the ISP had changed its DNS address, mentioning that they were going to upgrade their

Users of Grameen Phone faced serious trouble as they couldn't make or receive phone calls for hours on Tuesday. There was no official statement from the authorities.

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 Fri-

Qurankhwani, Milad Mahfil and feeding of destitute have been arranged on the occasion.



The Chehlum of Sirajun-Nehar Ibrahim, general secretary of Mymensingh Mohila Samity & founder member of Udayan School Mymensingh will be held tomorrow, says

a press release.

To mark the occasion Quran khwani and milad mahfil will be held after Juma prayers at her residence at 6 Mrityunjoy School Road, Mymensingh.

Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of former speaker of the Jatiyo Sangsad, Shamsul Huda Chaudhury, will be observed today, says a press re-

A milad malifil will be held at his Eskaton Garden residence after Maghrib prayers.

Shamsul Huda Chaudhury Smriti Sangsad has also arranged a daylong programme in Muktagacha. A commemorative magazine was published in the memory of the former Speaker.

A milad will also be held a Gabtoli College, Muktagacha.

Obituary

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

She was buried at the Banani graveyard on February 13. Nurjahan's qulkhwani will be held at her residence at 8-9 Eastern Point Flat No 4/604 Shantina-

gar after Asr prayers tomorrow.



WEATHER WAS



Dry weather forecast

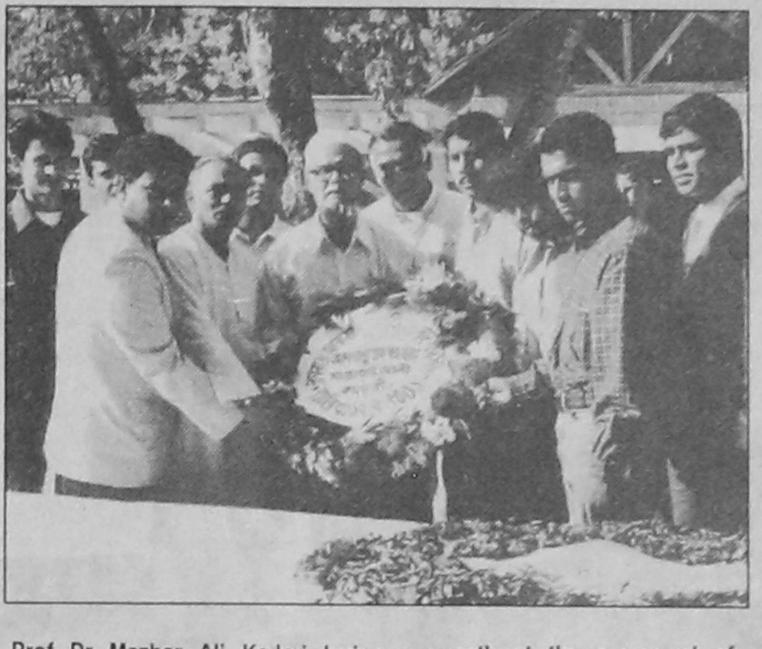
UNB, Dhaka

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.

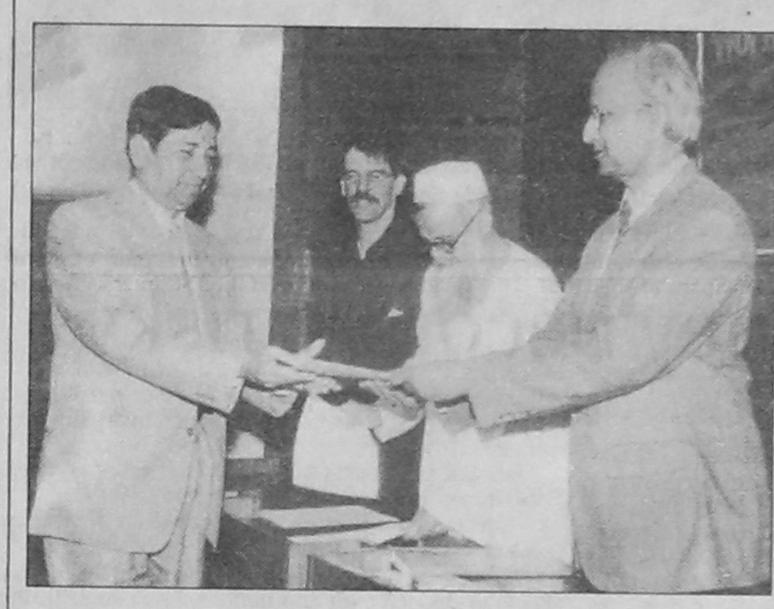
Light to moderate fog may occur at places over central to southern parts of the country during early morning. Met Office predicted adding that the night temperature may change slightly over the country.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 32.3 degree Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 10.4 degree Celsius at Jessore. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.31 am.

City/Town	Temper Cels	Humidity in Percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evenin
Dhaka	29.8	14.5	61	3
Chittagong	32.3	13.0	65	4
Rajshahi	29.8	11.2	75	5
Khulna	30.7	12.5	69	5
Barisal	30.4	11.0	85	7
Sylhet	30.0	14.7	60	4
Cox's Bazar	31.5	17.0	65	5



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" organised by the Directorate of Continuing Education, BUET yesterday at the Council Bhaban of BUET.



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.

Bishwa Asheke

Bishwa Asheke Rasul conference

will be held tomorrow at Dewan-

bagh Sharif at Motijheel in the

The conference will begin after

Fazr prayers. Akheri munajat will

Armed Forces Medical

Admission test in the MBBS 1s

year class of the Armed Forces

Medical College will be held at the

College on Friday as per the previ-

ous schedule, said an ISPR press

from the office of the institute.

Candidates who have not yet

Rasul confce

tomorrow

city, says a press release.

be held after Zuma prayers.

College admission

test Friday

BSS, Dhaka

BCL blames BNP for Tuesday's killings

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ruling party backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra 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 Shikkha Bhaban in the city and placed wreath at the monument in front of the Shikkha Bhaban at noon to mark Shaheed Day.

After observing a minutes silence commemorating the martyrs killed in the education movement in 1983, BCL held a rally here.

Speaking at the rally, leaders Bir Uttam Shaheed Anwar Girls blamed BNP for opening fire on an Awami League procession during Tuesday's hartal and killing three release of its activists and a policeman.

They urged the student community to be united to resist the 'evil forces' who are trying to create anarchy in the society.

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. Venue: Nazrul Instt at Dhanmondi. Time:

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. Venue: Dhaka Shishu Hospital auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 12:00 noon.

Optica 2001

Bangladesh Optical Traders and Industries Association begins a 3day long fair titled "Bangla Optica 2001." Venue: Hotel Razmoni Ishakha, 89/3 VIP Road, Kakrail.

Human chain

Sylhet Division Development Action Council will organise a human chain in support of their demand for state honour for Maj Gen M A G Osmani. Venue: Muktangan, Time: 4.00 pm.

Discussion meeting

Bangladesh Lekhok Shibir will hold a discussion meeting to mark the birth anniversary at writer Akhtaruzzaman Iliyas. Venue: DU Modern Languages Institute auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

Cultural programme

Drishti, a cultural organisation will hold an evening of recitation and music to mark its 15th founding anniversary. Venue: TSC premises, DU campus. Time: 6.00 pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Int'l Poultry show

World Poultry Science Association, Bangladesh branch will begin the 2nd International Poultry Show and Seminar. Chief guest: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock ASM Abdur Rob. Venue: IDB Bhaban (3rd floor). Shere-e-Bangla Nagar, Time :9.30

Film show

Documentaries on French filmmakers Philippe Gamel and Agnes Varda and the movie "The Fifth Element" will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 10.30 am and 6.00 pm.

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 Fulki for children of the garments workers. Venue: Gulshan Club. Time: 10.30 am 4.30 pm.

Art exhibition

Gallery 21 inaugurates a 10-day long solo exhibition of artworks by Dilara Begum Jolly. Venue: Gallery 21, 765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00 pm.

Tabla recital

Alliance Française de Dhaka presents a solo tabla recital by Ustad Sabbir Mokammel. Venue: Conference room of Alliance Française, 26 Mirpur Road. Time : 7.30 pm.

Debate

Platform to Resist Violence Against Woman will hold a debate on "failure of govt responsible for violence against women and children". Chief guest: Justice Mostafa Kamal. Venue: Auditorium of British Council, 5 Fuller Road.

Conference

Bangladesh Writes' Club will hold its conference 2001. Venue: National Museum. Chief guest: President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Postponed

BIRPERHT

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 due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

Bangladesh Institute of Research for Promotion of Essential and Reproductive Health has postponed its seminar on "Innovative Approaches for Safer Pregnancy scheduled to be held at the LGED Bhaban today, says a press release. 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, says a press

received admit cards of the said | release A fresh date for the viva will be test have been requested to collect announced later, the release it by 10 pm today (February 15) added.