Kibria on budget

New taxes have been proposed in the disguise of "restructuring", he said referring to increase in travel tax and court fee.

Kibria said, in the budget speech, the finance minister has given the impression that the government has established good governance in the country. "But in reality, people have become victims of misrule and torture. The finance minister has made a mockery with the people".

The alarming law and order situation in one hand and the pressure of new taxes on the other hand will make people's life miserable, Kibria said.

The finance minister should have expressed concern at the law and order situation. If the present state of law and order exists, no budget can bring about development, he

Kibria said there is no special measures in the proposed budget for the agriculture sector. On the finance minister's comment in his budget speech that the claim of achieving food autarky during

He said the proposed budget has made provisions to give facility to the rich. Corporate tax has been reduced by five per cent "only to make the rich happy who voted them to power".

Increase in import duty on cement clinker will affect the construction industry, which is vital for development but is at stake now, he

Since steel import is very expensive, AL government had taken steps to inspire the ship breaking industry. But the proposed budget has imposed duty on the industry, he said

The macro-economic management will go beyond the government's control, he observed.

"We had withdrawn duty on computer hardware. But in the proposed budget, 7.5 per cent duty has been imposed on computer hardware," Kibria said, questioning whether this kind of step is for the benefit of the country.

Replying to a question, Kibria said he has doubt whether about 9000 crore taka will be available from external sources.

The donors have asked the government to establish rule of law, bring the opposition to parliament and to stop torture on minorities, " I do not think this budget will

make the donors happy. Besides, the donors are disappointed to some extent as the government has failed to do so. "I have not seen any new direc-

tion in the proposed budget to increase exports and protect our market," Kibria said.

In the budget speech, the finance minister did not express his respect for freedom fighters, Kibria alleged. in the absence of the major opposi tion party, the finance minister shamelessly criticised the opposi-

tion", he said. Meanwhile, Opposition Awami League has termed the proposed budget for fiscal 2002-03 'antipeople' while the Jativa Party (Ershad) called it 'highly ambitious'

and a 'gimmick for political gain'. The budget will benefit the affluent, not the poor, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Advocate Abdul Hamid said. He rejected the budget.

Hamid was briefing newsmen at his parliament chamber while Finance Minister Saifur Rahman was delivering the second part of his budget speech in the House.

influential lawmaker of the Ershadled faction of Jatiya Party (JP) told newsmen that the budget was a highly ambitious' one and a 'gimmick by the four-party colaition government to gain politically. He expressed apprehension whether expansion of the tax-net would result in increase in tax collection.

Advocate Hamid said the affluent class will benefit from reduction of advance tax on jeep and motor car. will not benefit the poor, he said referring to the provisions proposed in the second part of the finance

On the proposed Annua Development Programme (ADP) of Tk 19200 ADP for fiscal 2002-2003, he said Saifur had criticised the size of the ADP proposed by the immediate past AL government and termed it an ambitious one. "If the AL's ADP allocation was ambitious, what should we term the finance minister's proposal?"

The immediate past AL government had proposed an ADP allocation of Tk 19,000, but immediately after taking over power in October last year, the BNP government revised it and trimmed it to The

Hamid said the government is campaigning for rearing goat for poverty reduction, but proposed additional tax on fodder. This is contradictory.

Asked whether AL will go for a movement against the 'anti-people budget, he said it will be discussed at the party forum.

At the briefing, former state minister and AL leader Syed Abul Hossain claimed that the finance minister presented a 'fabricated figure' of foreign exchange reserve. The reserve would be 'much less' than 1.4 billion dollars, mentioned in the finance minister's budget speech, he said

GM Qader questioned the proposed expansion of the tax net. This will result in 'repression' on the commonman, he said.

"The budget is seemingly protecting the interest of the rich, and the poor would become poorer,' said the JP lawmaker.

Tax holiday

rate for taxing new industries to be set up between 1st July 2002 and 30th June 2005. It will be effective from the date of commencement of commercial production of the

Saifur also proposed 100 per cent accelerated depreciation allowance for the first year for all industries regardless of their

He also declared intercompany transaction between associate enterprises as a 'disqualification' for enjoying tax

proposed reintroduction of 25 per cent initial depreciation allowance on machinery for the first year and

Power for agriculture:

related field withdrawn

processing industry

halls cut by 85 percent

Cinema hall:

FROM PAGE 12

Agro-processing industry:

Budget: Net impact

Supplementary duty on soft drinks goes up to ten per cent from five per

NGOs in business under tax net: A proposal to bring all sources of income by NGOs under taxation with the exception of what comes from micro-credit operation

Computers and accessories: Computers, all computer parts. modems, software, CD disks are

taxed 7.5 percent. Newspaper industry:

VAT imposed on print advertisement Paper: Customs duty on writing and print-

ing paper (not exceeding 150GSM) goes up to 32.5 per cent from 25 per Cable TV:

Fifteen per cent supplementary duty on satellite channel distributors Costly housing:

Supplementary duty on GI pipe goes up from 7.5 per cent to 30 per cent. Brick tariff goes up by 50 per cent and duty on clinker import climbs to 22.5 per cent from 15 per Shop owners:

Annual VAT is Tk 5,400 for the shops in the city and Tk 3,600 for snatching, rape, corruption nepothose outside Dhaka. tism, communalism, political revenge, mockery in the name of **GOING DOWN** election and enactment of black

Govt employee tax:

Government employees enjoy tax relief, as the government will pay on their behalf from its own funds. Bonus share: Withdrawal of tax on bonus shares

Software developer: Computer software enterprises are exempted from tax for the next three

vears. No tax on remittance:

Remittance from Bangladeshis working abroad is off tax, if sent through the banking channel No tax on transport sector invest-

Golam Mohammad Qader, an

minister's budget speech.

FROM PAGE 12

The finance minister also

10 per cent for factory building.

VAT on electricity in the agriculture

Tax-exemption for the agro-

Supplementary duty on cinema

June 7 today

tion government, according to UNB.

historic 7th June, marking the six-

point movement launched by

Bangabandhu, she alleged that the

ruling BNP and its allies were trying

to hang on to power by unleashing

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman had launched the move-

ment demanding self-rule in the

laws in the name of summary trial

marked the eight-month rule of this

come forward to wage a vigorous

movement against this fascist

government taking lessons from the

chalked out elaborate programmes,

including hoisting of national and

party flags atop Bangabandhu

Bhaban, its central and branch

offices and placing of wreaths at the

To mark the day, Awami League

historic 7th June," she said.

portrait of Bangabandhu.

"The patriotic people will have to

Hasina said incidents of killing

On this day in 1966

violence in the country.

then east Pakistan.

coalition government.

In a message on the eve of the

Income tax

FROM PAGE 1

All conditions for income tax exemption for remittance through banking channel have been withdrawn. Earlier, remittance from Bangladeshis abroad was exempted from income tax on certain conditions.

The finance minister also proposed making appropriate provisions of law for imposing tax on English medium schools, colleges and universities run on a commer-

However, information technology (IT), medical, dental and engineering colleges and institutions will remain outside the purview of such provisions.

He proposed reduction of discretionary power of income tax officials for creating a tax friendly environment. He suggested making a provision for approval by the NBR if a deputy commissioner of taxes proposes an estimate of one's income at 30 per cent higher than that disclosed by the person con-

He said introduction of 'fiscal police' for tax recovery should be considered as the existing tax recovery system is very weak. The finance minister informed

the parliament that a reform programme is being implemented with financial assistance from the UK government for building a modern, efficient and time-befitting tax administration.

The main objective of the programme is to introduce a common TIN for income tax and VAT to ensure the much needed coordination between the two departments for preventing revenue leakage, he

Tax on commercial vehicles, vessels Mixed reaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

mercial use.

water vessels.

FROM PAGE 12

pered".

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman

yesterday proposed withdrawal of

presumptive tax on motor vehicles

and inland water vessels for com-

Owners of such transports were

required to pay 200 per cent pre-

sumptive tax on commercial motor

vehicles and 125 per cent on inland

"An efficient transport system is a

hallmark of a strong economic

infrastructure. Adequate investment

in this sector is needed to build such

not at all conducive to the develop-

ment of the vital sector, said the

minister while proposing withdrawal

Untaxed income

ditionally and without question" by tax

The minister said that due to

absence of any special incentive for

investing such income, taxpayers did

not feel encouraged to declare such

invested in production activities."

Saifur said. "Due to this reason.

development activities including

industrialisation are being ham-

One of the goals of tax policy is to

direct investment to socially and

economically desirable sectors, he

said. "But repeated opportunities in

the past providing partial tax amnesty

on 'untaxed income' failed to generate

the desired response from the people

due to absence of allocative direction

"We have decided to introduce a

new and extended programme from

next financial year as allegations

have been raised against misuse of

Food for Education programmes,"

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman

He said under this programme a

poor family having one school-going

child will get Tk 100 per month and a

family having more than one school-

The government has also taken

up a massive programme styled

Stipend for Primary Education with

its own resources, he said. "This will

be the largest single project (of Tk

650 crore) in the history of

The finance minister also pro-

posed an allocation of Tk 24 crore

for recruitment of 8.000 new primary

A total of 10,000 computers will

be distributed among secondary

schools in the coming financial year,

fair to make discriminatory tax

treatment regarding incomes gener-

However, there is a rationale in

allowing some tax exemption for the

NGOs in special circumstances,

ated in similar circumstances.

Saifur Rahman noted.

going child will get Tk 125.

Bangladesh.

school teachers.

NGOs

of tax policy," the minister said.

Edn sector

FROM PAGE 12

mass education

"Nor such income is being

The policy of taxing investment is

a system," the minister said.

down as per an earlier commitment by the finance minister. But we did not find that in the proposed budget," the BTMA leader added.

Acting president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) AK Azad said the government would have to take effective measures for industrial growth. Tax exemption for agro process-

ing industries as well as investment by any individual, association or private limited company in order to encourage investment are also welcome moves, he mentioned.

He said the chamber hoped that the government would allow continued bonded warehouse facility for the interest of exporters. The BCI leader said however that the 20 per cent less tax in case of the newly established industries from the date of commercial operation would not bring any positive result. Micro credit programmes and

projects under foreign grants should not come under tax net, said Rasheda K Chowdhury, Director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Everything largely depends on the criteria to be set to bring NGO's

under tax net, she said. "If an NGO is working for poverty reduction and empowerment of women and development of the country, then it should not come under tax network," she Small NGO's working for development at the grassroots level will

face much trouble as they really

"Tonight, France are still not

Henry had lost the ball and slid in

with a desperate two-footed attempt

to win it back, prompting Mexican

referee Felipe Ramos Rizo to reach

for the red card to the disbelief of the

But in the second half, France

seeking to avoid becoming the first

World Cup holders since Brazil in

1966 to go out in the first round,

overcame Henry's absence to

neither team could afford to lose,

Sylvain Wiltord was denied in

stoppage time after being played in

by Bixente Lizarazu and at the other

end French goalkeeper Fabien

Barthez kept the world champions in

the competition with a superb stop

with his leas from substitute

France, still playing without the

Striker David Trezeguet was

iniured Zinedine Zidane, had a

denied at close range by Uruguayan

keeper Fabian Carini after blasting a

shot goalwards and Johan Micoud's

curling free-kick was beaten away

Trezeguet later threw his head

He was replaced by the new star

The untried youngster injected

French right-back Vincent

back in frustration after rolling the

pall just wide with 20 minutes

of French football, Djibril Cisse, in

pace to the attack and his shot in the

Saifur proposed withdrawal of

supplementary duty on a large

number of items and also reduced

budget banked on measures to

boost agriculture, the major genera-

tor to GDP growth, and also to agro-

about as corporate tax rates have

been slashed across the board. And

the capital gain tax, regardless of

the retention period of assets, has

holiday will certainly make the business people unhappy. The

extended units will be kept out of this

tax holiday benefit. Saifur also

vestment portion of the tax-

exempted income of the industries

enjoying tax holiday. His budget measures also

include incentive for the 'black

money' holders if invested between

July 2002 and June 2005. The taxes

department will accept their invest-

ment 'unconditionally and without

whole scheme is a comprehensive

plan to reform the administration

and downsize the state-owned

enterprises (SOEs) to put a cap on

future expenditure. All he talked

about is the creation of a Tk 400

crore severance fund for the SOE

And for the first time, Tk 50 crore

It did dawn on Saifur that foreign

financing would further dip in future.

So, he repeatedly talked about self-

reliance. His mode of budget financ-

ing also lived up to his philosophy,

as the proposed budget sees ar

increased domestic financing of Tk

4239 crore and a dwindled foreign

has made one radical change in the

annual development programme

(ADP), allowing private participation

To spur private investment, he

has been allocated as income tax of

the government employees

financing of Tk 6173 crore.

However, the missing link in the

proposed an increase in the rein-

However, the measure for tax

also been lowered.

any question'

The business has a lot to cheer

At the same time, his proposed

rates on the remaining items.

closing minutes tested Carini

frustrating night in front of goal.

Federico Magallanes.

by the 'keeper.

the closing minutes.

remaining

In a dramatic end to a game that

disappointed," said Lemerre.

eliminated.

Frenchman.

dominate.

ing concern over bringing the NGO's under tax net.

Former president of Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporters Association (BFFEA) Golam Mostafa welcomed the proposed move to bring the government employees into the tax record. "Besides, I hope reducing the discretionary power of tax officials would certainly encourage

Jatiya Party lawmaker Roushan Ershad criticised the proposed budget saying that the additional tax burden of Tk 15,000 crore has been imposed on the ordinary people who are unable to bear it.

Cement Manufacturer's Association (BCMA) Azizur Rahman said the increase of import duty on cement clinker would put pressure on the end users and ultimately increase the cost of construction, as the cost of every bag of cement would increase by Tk two to three. Bangladesh needs more building

infrastructure, so the cost of con-

struction materials should not be

reaction on the increase of import duty on clinker, the main ingredient for cement production which is mostly imported from abroad. President of Bangladesh Tax Talukder termed the proposed

Secretary of Bangladesh

increased Rahman said in his brief

Lawvers' Association MA Salam budget an ambitious one, saving that the poor people would be under pressure due to the unrealistic annual development programme of

veteran defender Frank Leboeuf.

almost caught out Carini with a

clever lob and Marcel Desailly

headed over the top despite being

threat came from Inter Milan

midfielder Alvaro Recoba. He

wasted a golden second-half

chance when he could only drive

into the side netting after French

goalkeeper Fabien Barthez had

Rodriguez said his team wasted an

tonight. I just hope we are not too

tired when it comes to the match

started off a little unsure of

ourselves but we got better as the

game went on. We should really

have scored, but all in all, a draw

take the lead, Sebastian Abreu

with 15 minutes left to play and the

Uruguayans cleared their lines in

two minutes later and Micoud,

role, could do nothing with the

Denmark, showed their nerves as

rash challenges and earned yellow

cards for Romero, Pablo Garcia

infrastructure users will be charged

Saifur Rahman is expecting a six

acknowledged the dwindling contri-

bution of import duty in the revenue

earning and has emphasised direct

tax collection, basically the income

of tax on the income of the agro-

processing industries. As the remit-

tance has saved the dwindling

foreign exchange reserve from

further fall, Saifur proposed uncon-

ditional income tax exemption for

the expatriate Bangladeshis send-

ing remittance through banking

made the finance minister's pro-

posal to put accent on the growth of

CT (information communication

300 crore equity and entrepreneur

development fund for the ICT sec-

tor, along with agro-based industry

and tax exemption for the software

three per cent advance tax on

computers. On the other hand he

proposed 7.5 per cent customs duty

on computer hardware, software

As he made a major shift from the

The finance minister's policy will

dependence on import duty, so far

the major source of revenue. Saifur

widened the VAT and income tax

certainly affect people bracketed in

the low income group, as he pro-

posed to lower the tax exemption

imit to Tk 75.000 from the existing

Tk 100,000 and also made it man-

datory to pay a minimum tax of Tk

2,400. The minimum tax payable

people will get benefit through his

ncome tax restructuring measures.

rich people Saifur proposed to make

provision for submission of relevant

However, the high-income group

But, to check tax evasion by the

He also proposed withdrawal of

On one hand. Saifur promised Tk

chnology) look like a mystery.

However, some paradoxes

channel.

industry

and all accessories.

earlier was Tk 1,000.

He has proposed full exemption

per cent growth in the next fiscal.

Through his proposed measures

The finance minister has

Uruguay, who lost their opener to

The South Americans resorted to

Trezeguet was thwarted again

heading just wide of the post.

the subsequent scramble.

the first half deteriorated.

Tax spreads its wing

to woo the private sector.

Minutes after Recoba's miss

Uruguayan defender Dario

"We didn't take our chances

Coach Victor Pua said: "We

Uruguay's most potent attacking

completely unmarked.

charged out of his goal.

against Senegal," he said.

opportunity to win.

was a fair result."

rebound.

"Inflation and prices of essentials would go up significantly. It is also not acceptable to reduce the limit of taxable income to Tk 75,000 from Tk one lakh. Besides, increasing the minimum tax limit to Tk 2400 from the earlier Tk 1000 would seriously affect the small tax pavers." he observed adding that it is also illogical to impose value added tax on professionals including lawyers.

Power situation

generation and distribution including granting licences, fixing tariff, protecting interests of customers etc. The commission would be constituted under the Power Reforms Act, which is now at the final stage of approval.

Besides, the cabinet has approved the draft bill -- Bangladesh Gas Act-- for long- term development of the gas sector in a competitive environment to encourage private investment, protect consumers' interests and abolish monopoly as well as to protect environment. Appropriate decision will be

taken on economic use of gas keeping in view the interest of the country, on the basis of findings of two expert committees formed to resolve controversies regarding

French fate in balance Dario Silva and Sebastian Abreu Candela, a first-half substitute for

while Petit picked up a costly

second booking of the competition. Petit it was who came closest to giving France a first-half lead when his curling free kick over the wall forced a lunging save from Carini after 35 minutes

Vieira twisted his ankle after Silva's boot made contact with his shin, yet Silva was not booked and Vieira limped back on to the field after Silva was eventually booked

The French midfielder Patrick

early in the second half for tripping Lizarazu and was later substituted by coach Victor Pua as it seemed he might earn a sending-off. Henry just missed Micoud's curled pass into the penalty area

after six minutes and Trezequet was

twice poised to score but was caught offside on each occasion. But after soaking up the early pressure, Uruguay eased back into the first half as Recoba began to run

the midfield. Uruguay missed another chance to Recoba's powerful drive was deflected by Lilian Thuram but Barthez managed to change A timely tackle denied Trezeguet direction and save with his right foot.

TFAMS France: Barthez, Thuram, Leboeuf, Desailly (capt), Lizarazu, Vieira, Petit, Micoud, Wiltord, Henry,

Uruguay: Carini, Lembo, Sorondo, Montero (capt), Romero, Garcia, Varela, Rodriguez, Recoba, Silva. Abreu

Referee: Felipe Ramos Rizo (Mex)

personal information with their tax

return and also 'fiscal police' for tax

middle income group people to ride

a car of their own as the finance

minister proposed ban on import of

all sorts of old vehicles. But good

news for the rich people is that they

have to spend less to buy posh cars.

At the same time, he withdrew the

However, in Saifur's own words

"Acceptance of the above proposal

(proposed reduced tax rate on new

cars) will help one to purchase a

new car at a price close to the price

has completely withdrawn pre-

sumptive tax on investment or

commercial motor vehicles and

inland water vessels to bring more

investment in public transport

raised income tax on inland water

scheme, Saifur proposed to bring all

and private universities under tax

net, but exempted vocational

dental, engineering, medical and IT

the proceeds from their micro-credit

projects will also come under tax

net. Also, his proposal includes an

Defence budget

will be Tk 3,337 crore after adjust-

ing Tk 601 crore charged as pay

and allowances and rent for trans-

port and equipment of the mem-

bers working for the United Nations

"The net defence expenditure

All incomes of the NGOs barring

institutions.

increase in travel tax.

budget for 2002-03.

parliament.

English Medium schools, colleges

Paradoxically however, he

As part of his tax-widening

But to strike a balance. Saifur

of an old car or reconditioned car.

provision to pay advance tax on

Gone will be the days for the

recovery in the future.

personal vehicles

Saudis sent packing

A bigger winning margin for the Irish than Cameroon achieved on Thursday would put the Africans out, Germany having thrashed the Arab

Saudi Arabia, who made five changes from that outclassed lineup, thus became the first of the 32 teams competing at the finals to depart the competition. But after a vastly improved

showing they can prepare to leave with their heads held far higher than after their German nightmare They were admirably tenacious in

the opening 45 minutes as the Africans had two efforts ruled out for Cameroon, the only African side ever to make the quarter-finals with

their 1990 exploits, were hell-bent on

improving on a draw in their first

match against Ireland. But they struggled for what seemed like an eternity to turn their dominance into goals.

They almost got off to a perfect start when Spanish-based midfielder Daniel Nkome came close to winning went tumbling in the area but Norwegian referee Terje Hauge was

nicknamed Mr Fixit, picked a fiveman defence with skipper and striker Sami al-Jaber on the sidelines injured. Obaid al-Dosari, replacing al-

Jaber, should have put them into a from the right flank.

champions two minutes later but the former African player of the year, on target against the Irish, had strayed Former Asian player of the year

Al Dosari fell awkwardly and went off on a stretcher ten minutes before

42 minutes but rolled a right-foot low effort agonisingly wide and then was unlucky with a neat curled effort wide of Alioum Boukar's left-hand post as

the Saudis pressed forward.

In-between times, Lauren had a header ruled out for offside.

Al-Deavea saved a Raymond Kalla towering header and then fielded a shot from Lauren as Cameroon upped the ante after the restart and Eto'o then ballooned an effort well over the bar from just inside the box before the Saudi keeper plucked a Rigobert Song header out of the air.

Substitute Salomon Olembe then sent a fizzing drive narrowly off target before Eto'o finally ended the torture after 65 minutes, poking the ball home with his right boot off Geremi's flick before tearing his shirt off and rushing to the touchline to embrace coach Winfried Schafer.

Al-Temyat was the Saudi's main threat in the second period but hit a low drive too close to keeper Boukar Alioum with 18 minutes to go and after negotiating four minutes of added time Cameroon held out.

Cameroon: Alioum, Wome (Njanka 84), Tchato, Song, Kalla, auren, Foe, Kome (Olembe 45), eremi, Eto'o, Mboma (N'Diefi 74).

Saudi Arabia: Al Daeyea, Al Jahani, Tukar, Zubromawi (Abdallah Al Dossari 71), Al Shehri, Sulimani, Al Khathran (Noor 86), Abdallah Al Shahrani, Ibrahim Al Shahrani, Al Temyat, Obeid Al Dossari (Al Yami

Referee: T Hauge (Norway)

Govt employees FROM PAGE 12 income from sources other than

The discriminatory tax treatment leads to social inequity and distortion of the system with a negative impact on the tax-GDP

salary exceeds the tax exemption

ratio, Saifur Rahman said. Also, the situation in which the government employees are remainng outside the tax net is hindering

expansion of the tax base. "For many years, different trade bodies, including the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) have been demanding removal of the current disparity in the tax treatment. Our development partners. including the World Bank are also highly critical of the current status on

Tk 11770 cr deficit

FROM PAGE 1

from this fiscal's original Tk 1944 crore and revised Tk 1820 crore.

4140 crore. The contribution of the non-

The proposed budget also envisages a 9.52 per cent increase in pay and allowances in the revenue expenditure. Against this fiscal's Tk 6622 original outlay, the next budget keeps a Tk 7319 crore provision.

fiscal's Tk 964, mainly because of costly suppliers' credit. Subsidies in the next fiscal is set to increase substantially, from Tk 609 crore of this fiscal's original

increased to Tk 1025 crore from this

figure to Tk 1227 crore next fiscal, a 100 per cent rise. Of Tk 44,854 crore expenditure budget, 15 per cent has been allocated for education and IT, 13 per cent for transport and communication, 10 per cent as interest, nine per cent for local government and rural development, seven per cent for

ture, seven per cent for defence, six per cent for public administration, six per cent for energy and power five per cent for public order and security, four per cent for social security and welfare, four per cent for pension, two per cent for industry and economic services and five per cent for others.

Stock markets

FROM PAGE 12

reduction of non-listed companies to 35 per cent from 40 per cent tax

However, such incentives will not be applicable to banks, insurance companies and other financial

To give the local sugar mills relief from uneven competition, the budget proposed to increase customs duty on import of sugar to 32.5 per cent from 25 per cent now and impose 20 per cent supplementary

imposition of 20 per cent supplementary duty on import of ruhi, katla, mrigel, pangas and carp fish to encourage unemployed youths to establish fish cultivation farms.

(molasses).

The finance minister proposed Tk 880 crore revenue budget in agriculture sector for fiscal 2002-03 as against Tk 855 crore in the revised budget for 2001-02. The amount is seven per cent of the total

2002-2003. Tk 115 crore more than the amount proposed in the revised budget for the current fiscal year. The amount is 10 per cent of the

ICT growth

products have been kept at zero for the last few years, which led to the import of a huge quantity of comput-The government blamed smug-

gling of computer accessories as a motive behind increasing the customs duty on the imports. "It is learnt that some dishonest traders are actually importing computers with the ulterior motive of smuggling these out to other countries, where duty rates on computers are higher, thereby causing the country to lose precious foreign exchange, Rahman told the parliament in his budget speech. He also alleged that some dishonest traders were mporting parts of electronic goods in the name of computer accessories taking advantage of the previous duty free regime.

Citing the cause of globalisation in favour of his increase, the minister said "tariff rates has become a sin qua non task for all countries. ble for Bangladesh to continue to maintain a duty free regime on many

allocation for agriculture sector in

He also proposed 32.5 per cent customs duty and 10 per cent supplementary duty on import of full cream milk powder in bulk packing, instead of the existing 25 per cent customs duty, 10 per cent regulatory duty and five per cent supplementary duty. This is aimed at promoting

local dairy farms. agricultural machinery easily available, the budget proposed full withdrawal of value added tax (VAT) on tractor, power-tiller, aerator and full-fat Soyabean both at import and local production stage. It also proposed total withdrawal of VAT on electricity used for irrigation purposes and on home-made gur

revenue expenditure.

To make raw materials and

He proposed Tk 1930 crore ADP

peace keeping forces," he told the

a penalty after 17 seconds as he unimpressed.

Saudi coach Nasser al-Johar,

shock lead on 10 minutes but he headed weakly over from Abdullah Alwaked al-Shahrani's superb cross Patrick Mboma put the ball in the net for the African and Olympic

Nawaf al-Temyat tried a speculative effort from some 25 metres in the 21st minute but his effort flew well

the break to be replaced by Al Hasan Al-Temyat should have scored on

the issue," the minister pointed out.

crore next fiscal Project aid has been projected at guite a low level of Tk 1772 crore

The proposed budget also pins hope heavily on national savings schemes as a mode of noninflationary budget financing and Tk 8608 crore will be collected from sales of savings instruments. However, after retiring Tk 4468 crore the net amount will stand at Tk

portion in the ambitious revenue collection is significantly higher in the next budget. Against this year's Tk 1293 crore original collection figure from this head, the next year's budget proposes to increase it to Tk 1750 crore, an outright 26 per cent

increase.

Domestic interest payment obligation has been billed at Tk 3589 crore, lower than this fiscal original Tk 3644 crore. But foreign interest payment obligation has

Agri subsidy

duty.

The finance minister proposed

ROM PAGE 12 He said duty rates on computer

and therefore, it would not be possiof its items of import".

Awami League rule was 'exaggerated'. Kibria said. "The finance minister has resorted to lies. 'The finance minister forgot that we faced a devastating flood in 1998. We had to import 40 lakh tons of food that year. After the flood, we did not import food, rather we had