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Per capita GDP, GNI fall

SHAHRIAR KARIM

The country's per capita GDP (gross domestic product) and per capita GNI (gross national income) in dollar terms have gone down this fiscal compared to last fiscal.

The per capita GDP has gone down by a dollar -- from US\$ 363 in FY01 to US\$ 362 in FY02. The per capita GNI (gross national income) has gone down from US\$ 377 in the previous fiscal to US\$ 375 this fiscal.

Also, the per capita NNI (net national income) has fallen to US\$ 347 this fiscal from US\$ 349 in the previous fiscal.

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BUET student dies in crossfire



Sadequunnahar Sony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female student of the Bangladesh Engineering University and Technology (BUET) was killed in crossfire during a gunfight between two factions of ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the university campus yesterday.

Sadequunnahar Sony, 22 and a second year student of Level-2, Term-2 of chemical engineering department, died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). A stray bullet pierced through her abdomen.

Sony is the first female student to be killed in a clash between two rival student groups in Bangladesh. The last killing on BUET campus took place in June 1995 when armed miscreants called Ahmedullah, a BUET student, out of Ahsanullah Hall and shot him dead. None has so far been arrested in connection with the killing.

Sources in the JCD said tension had been mounting between two rival groups for the last several days over capturing of the tender worth Tk 87 lakh.

Yesterday morning, a heavily-armed faction of JCD unit of Dhaka University (DU) led by Central Joint Secretary Benazir Titu went to the BUET

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Budget unrealistic, to serve only the rich

Hasina threatens agitation against 'anti-people' measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The proposed budget aims to serve a government of the rich at the cost of the poor," Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hsaina told a post-budget press conference in the city yesterday.

In her reaction to the proposed budget for 2002-03, the opposition leader said it has been designed to protect the interests of the ruling BNP men who have "earned huge money through corrupt practices".

"It's a highly ambitious budget and the product of daydream ... it will never come true," she told the news conference at the Jatiya Press Club as she analysed various aspects of the budget announced Thursday.

The opposition leader said the government would be forced through movement to withdraw all anti-people measures proposed in the new budget, including imposition of huge taxes on people belonging to the low-income group.

Asked to specify what kind of agitation her party would opt for, she replied it would be decided according to the will of the people. "People have already taken to the streets against the budget and we'll be with them. People will have to suffer a lot if this budget is not resisted," she said.

The opposition leader also blamed Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman for manipulating and distorting

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Sheikh Hasina

Dhaka worried at threat of N-war, FM tells Musharraf

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday called on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and expressed Dhaka's concern over prevailing tension between Pakistan and India.

According to a message received from Islamabad, Foreign Minister Khan while discussing the current tension between India and Pakistan called upon both the countries for maximum restraint and for a meaningful dialogue to resolve their bilateral problems.

Morshed Khan expressed his confidence that the measures outlined in the recent speech of President Pervez Musharraf would be effectively implemented in the shortest possible time.

Bangladesh did not intend, he

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FBCCI welcomes budget, DCCI, BGMEA cautious

STAR REPORT

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday hailed the proposed budget for the next financial year, saying it will help alleviate poverty, generate employment and boost industries.

But the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) expressed mixed reactions.

FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Haroon at a press conference said, "We think the main focus in the proposed budget has been given on attaining self-reliance. The budget will help generate employment and rapid industrialisation, which will lead to self-reliance".

He however proposed quarterly review of government's revenue income and expenditure, borrowing and

other issues to address any shortcoming or problem timely.

The apex trade body welcomed the proposal to bring NGO business, government employees and other professionals under the tax net.

On the six per cent growth target for GDP and 20 per cent for revenue earning, the FBCCI president said, "If monitoring and supervision are strengthened, it is possible to achieve the goals."

The DCCI in a statement said the proposed budget will help achieve long term industrial growth and internal resource mobilisation.

Opportunity for investment of untaxed income and remittances of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs), income tax exemption for agro-based industry, software business and bonus share are positive elements of the proposed budget, it noted.

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Italy in trouble

REUTERS, Ibaraki

Italy can claim they had two goals wrongly disallowed, bad refereeing or sheer bad luck.

But whatever excuse they use, they spectacularly blew their chance of virtually securing their place in the second round of the World Cup finals when they lost 2-1 to Croatia yesterday.

The result not only sent Italy crashing to defeat in regular time in the finals for the first time since 1994, it also threw group G wide open with Italy, Mexico and Croatia all on three points and Ecuador with

none.

So instead of waiting to learn the outcome of Mexico's match with Ecuador in Miyagi today to see whether they were through to the last 16, they are now no longer certain to qualify.

They will now have to wait until their final group match against Mexico in Oita on Thursday, the same day Ecuador play Croatia in Yokohama.

Croatia, themselves facing

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PHOTO: AFP

There it goes... Roberto Carlos (r) unleashes a free-kick to put Brazil in the scoresheet against China in Seogwipo, South Korea yesterday.

R-force fires Brazil

AFP, Seogwipo

Four-time champions Brazil dished out a World Cup masterclass to tournament debutants China here yesterday, turning on the style in a 4-0 thrashing en route to the second round.

Brazil chalked up their best win at the World Cup finals since 1986 as the four Rs -- Roberto Carlos, Rivaldo, Ronaldinho and Ronaldo -- scored four goals.

The result leaves Brazil top of Group C and all but guaranteed a place in the last 16 with only a match against Costa Rica to come. China play Turkey in their final game.

Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said his team was gathering

momentum.

"We knew the Chinese are getting better but we also knew we

are a better team than they are. We are more experienced," Scolari said.

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Shazneen case Deposition of Latifur Rahman begins

STAR REPORT

Hearing on the Shazneen rape case resumed yesterday in the Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression with the deposition of Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom and father of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman.

Shazneen, 15, was raped and murdered in her bedroom at their Gulshan residence in the city on April 23, 1998. She was a student of class IX at the Scholastica school.

Seven people including domestic servants and an engineer working at the residence of Latifur Rahman were accused of raping and murdering Shazneen and were chargesheeted by police.

Latifur Rahman's deposition before the court could not be completed yesterday. Judge Kazi Rahmatullah took into cognizance Raman's statement that he was feeling sick after standing in the dock for more than two and half a hours. The judge then adjourned the hearing till June 12.

In his deposition, Rahman gave a detailed description of his residence where Shazneen was found mur-

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Political unrest, violence kill 7000 since Oct, claims Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that over 7,000 people have been killed and another 10,000 injured in political unrest and other violence since the BNP-led alliance was elected in October last year.

"A total of 7,064 people have been killed from October last year to April this year," said Hasina, also the Awami League president. She noted that the death toll would be higher now as "ten people are being killed a day on average."

Hasina told a post-budget press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city that 134 places of worship were attacked and ransacked. She also listed 17,345 acts of other crimes including arson and robbery.

Quoting reports from different newspapers and human rights bodies on rising crime rates, the opposition leader said 797 females

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Top criminal David held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A top criminal of Narayanganj town was arrested along with his accomplice from in front of Sonamia Market on Dhaka-Narayanganj road in the early hours of yesterday.

Siddhirganj thana police arrested Mominullah David, also joint convener of Jubo Dal Narayanganj district unit, and his accomplice Shahjalal at about 3:30 am while the two were returning to the town from Dhaka in a microbus.

Police also seized the vehicle and its driver.

Police said David is a listed criminal and wanted in 35 cases including murder and extortion.