NEWS

GDP, GNI **Budget unrealistic**

official statistics in his budget speech. "This budget has been formu-

lated for the interest of Hawa Bhaban, which took bribe of crores of taka. And, it has provided measures to whiten that black money without any tax," she said.

She reminded that Saifur Rahman earlier had strongly opposed a similar option provided by AL of whitening the black money but through payment of a seven per cent tax for a limited time only.

"The proposed budget has imposed taxes on the people without creating any opportunity for raising their earnings... people's sufferings will be boundless as they will lose the capacity to buy essentials," she said. "The government has proposed loads of additional taxes without considering people's capacity to pay them."

Hasina said that although the new budget speaks about poverty alleviation, it lacks any specific direction to this end. Nor does it have any provision for creating fresh employment opportunities, she claimed. Reacting sharply to expansion of

the tax base by lowering the ceiling of taxable income to Tk 75,000, the opposition leader noted that a poor rickshawpuller or a vendor would now fall within the tax bracket.

She claimed the proposed tax reduction on import of new cars was designed to benefit two of the ministers in the coalition government who import new cars whereas tax hike on the import of reconditioned cars would affect 70.000 families of such importers. "Import of reconditioned cars used to cost \$50m but the cost will increase to \$300m if new cars are imported."

The AL leader criticised the finance minister for ignoring the breakdown of law and order in his budget speech despite the fact that it is the most important factor for the success of all development proiects. "The budget is bound to prove ineffective unless law and order is improved," she said reminding that the donors tagged law and order, human rights and governance with their aid pledges.

The coalition government failed to receive any aid commitment from the donors as it failed to live up to their expectations, she commented. "Grapes are sour", she said to

explain the government's viewpoint that it would depend on local resources instead of depending on foreign aid.

The opposition leader accused the finance minister of distorting facts and even quoting false statistics in his budget speech as regards June 6. food production during the past AL

regime. "The country's food production stood at 249.07 lakh metric tons in 1999 and it was further raised in 2000-01. The production rate was 6.9 per cent and 5.2 per cent respectively which was documented in the Bangladesh Economic Review 2000, presented by Saifur Rahman in the parliament.

"Still, he quoted false information in his budget speech and thus denied the official data."

Hasina also accused Saifur of presenting wrong information about the import of food. "According to the economic review. import of food declined to 9.67 lakh tons in 1996-97 from 24.27 lakh tons in 1995-96 and 25.68 lakh tons in 1994-95. In 1999-2000, food import came down to 428.000 tons and it was 529.000

tons in 2001-02." she said. "Thus we achieved food sufficiency... (prime minister) Begum (Khaleda) Zia and Saifur Rahman should feel ashamed that the prices

of rice and other essentials have shot up within months of their takeover. Hasina ridiculed the finance minister for terming the AL govern-

ment's last budget with an Annual Development Programme (ADP) of Tk19,000 crore an "ambitious" one while he himself has now come up with a "highly ambitious" budget with an ADP outlay of Tk 19,200

The opposition leader termed the proposed budget's revenue target of Tk 33.084 crore as a mere dream which she said would never come true as it is not "realistic". "He (finance minister) is bound to fail to realise the targeted revenue and will have no option but to go for borrow-

She listed as many as 23 areas where people will have to spend more if the proposed budget is executed.

Earlier, the AL leader criticised the finance minister for not recognising in his budget speech the contributions of the architect of the country's independence and father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other national leaders as well as the martyrs of independence war.

"The speech was full of abuses against the Awami League government." she said.

Deposition of Latifur Rahman

news. But one person, engineer

Hasan whom his family knew for

thew previous two years did not

come. At about 2 am, he (Rahman)

along with his office manager Faisal

Hossain went to Gulshan Police

A number of police personnel

Station and filed a case.

am.

This was mentioned in the Bangladesh Economic Analysis (BEA) 2002 prepared by the finance ministry and placed in the parliament with the budget documents on

A budget analysis by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has attributed this decline to the fact that ncome growth in US dollar terms (1.43 per cent) was slower than population growth (1.71 per cent) in this fiscal (2001-02)

However, in terms of taka both the per capita GDP and per capita GNI in FY02 have gone up from the corresponding figures in FY01, according to the BEA.

Per capita GDP has gone up to Tk 20.673 from Tk 19,595 and per capita GNI to Tk 21,448 from Tk 20,332 as shown in the government document.

Per capita NNI this fiscal has gone up to Tk 19,805 from Tk 18.809 in FY01. However, when the devaluation

of taka is taken into consideration. it becomes clear that both per capita GDP and per capita GNI has gone down.

On an average, in FY01 the US dollar was equivalent to Tk 53.96. Following devaluation, the average value of the local currency in FY02 stood at Tk 57.13 to a dollar, it was mentioned in the BEA 2002.

Revenue target FROM PAGE 12 powder milk has been proposed on recommendation from the LGED ministry "We have done it mainly to

protect our local industry which is able to meet about 70 per cent of the demand"

Talking about increasing import duty on sugar, he said the government is going to allow sugar import in private sector within the next couple of days. "Despite the proposed duty, it will be possible to keep the price of sugar at Tk 27 or 28 pet kg," he said. Asked about increase in import

duty on cement clinker. he said it is not more than 1.5 per cent. "We have withdrawn 2.5 per cent supplementary duty as well 2.5 per cent icense free from the item"

In this regard he alleged that some cement factories evaded huge amounts of VAT and income tax, while some others imported clinker more than their consumption

The NBR chairman refused to make any comment when asked about the allegation that duties on new motor vehicles have been reduced due to influence of two ministers as they are involved in this business.

Hossain appeared in the court

on behalf of the complainant

while Advocate Mosharraf Hossain

Kajol, Mohammad Ali and MA

Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam for the

Italy in trouble

FROM PAGE 1

almost certain elimination with just 17 minutes to play, hauled themselves back into the match and the competition with two goals in four minutes from substitute lvica Olic and FIFA Man of the Match Milan Rapaic

Italy had led from the 55th minute when Christian Vieri scored with a superbly taken header for his eighth World Cup goal in seven finals matches.

But despite looking the sharper side for long periods, they never managed to kill Croatia off. Like other fancied teams France, Argentina and Portugal, Italy have been the victims of a real upset here.

Italy punished

They were made to pay for their largesse when Olic, who replaced Davor Vugrinec after 57 minutes, reacted first to a long raking cross into the six-yard-box from Robert Jarni

With the Italian players looking more like Roman statues than some of the world's best defenders, Olic swept the ball past Gianluigi Buffon from two metres out to equalise.

Four minutes later Croatia went ahead. Rapaic started the move when he foraged forward into space on the right, squeezing past Italian skipper Paolo Maldini and Marco Materazzi, who replaced the injured Alessandro Nesta in the first half.

Rapaic's first shot was only halfcleared by Fabio Cannavaro and headed back to Rapaic. This time his curling, left-foot shot flew high over the stranded Buffon after taking

a deflection on the way. Suddenly it was 2-1 to Croatia, but the game was far from over.

Goal disallowed

A minute after the goal. Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni sent on Filippo Inzaghi in place of Cristiano Doni in search of the equaliser and he thought he had done just that in injury time when he forced the ball home, but the goal was disallowed for shirt-pulling.

That was Italy's second disallowed goal of the game after a 50th minute Vieri effort was cancelled out after the linesman flagged him offside and the striker was booked for protesting. The Italians also saw Francesco

Totti rap the ball against the post from a free-kick four minutes from the end of normal time, and somehow their three points just vanished into thin air.

The victory was a tactical success for Croatian coach Mirko Jozic over Trapattoni.

He dropped Davor Suker, the leading scorer in the 1998 World Cup when Croatia reached the semi-finals -- and he also left out fellow-veteran Robert Prosineck

from the side beaten 1-0 by Mexico on Monday. Instead he played Alen Boksic as

the lone striker in what amounted to a 4-3-2-1 formation. Trapattoni brought in Cristiano Zanetti to strengthen the midfield, but the likes of Davor Vugrinec. making his first appearance in the finals, and Rapaic thwarted that plan by playing closer to Boksic in the first half at least, forcing the Italian

midfield deeper than they would have liked. They were also helped by Nesta's enforced withdrawal through injury. Almost as soon as he went, gaps began to appear for Croatia to exploit.

It was niggly and stop-start football and not pretty to watch, but it proved effective in the end.

It was also the end of Italy's attempt to beat Brazil's record of 13 World Cup matches undefeated, set between 1958 and 1966.

Italy would have equalled that record by avoiding defeat on Saturday -- but at least Maldini walked off the pitch having reached another milestone in his long career. He has now equalled Uwe Seeler's record of playing in 21 complete matches in the World Cup and can still beat Lothar

Matthaeus's all-time record of 25 appearances if he plays in five more matches in the tournament. After this stunning set-back

though, questions must be asked about whether Italy will last that Despite claiming the disallowed

goals should have stood, Italy never really mastered Croatia, but then again they rarely have. The only time Italy have beaten

Croatia was in a war-time international friendly in 1942. Since 1992 when Croatia were

admitted to FIFA as an independent nation, they have met four times with Croatia winning twice and the other two matches drawn. Italy seemed set to end that

bogey yesterday, but clearly Croatia had other ideas. TEAMS

Italy: Buffon, Panucci, Nesta laterazzi 23), Cannavaro, Maldini, Zambrotta, Zanetti, Tommasi, Doni (Inzaghi 79), Totti, Vieri

Booked: Vieri Goals: Vieri 56 Croatia: Pletikosa, Robert

Kovac, Simunic, Saric, Jarni, Rapaic (Simic 79), Niko Tomas. Kovac, Soldo (Vranjes 62), Vugrinec (Olic 57), Boksic

Booked: Robert Kovac. Goals: Olic 73, Rapaic 76 Attendance: 36.472

Referee: Graham Poll (England)

Saifur's claim

FROM PAGE 12 achieved in the initial years of

Sheikh Hasina's government. Rather, it came in fiscal 1999-2000. Although the 11 million farmers accomplished the great task of attaining food autarky, the Bangladesh Economic Review

of gross mismanagement in fertiliser marketing and political disturbances

However, streamlining of fertiliser marketing and greater flow of farm credits gave dividends just two years later when food production crossed the 20-million MT mark in campus in an attempt to scare their rivals away to fetch the bidding papers. Titu was accompanied by Tagar. Masum Billah. Kaiser and Shamsu of the JCD's SM Hall unit, the sources said.

The rival group headed by Mokammel Hayat Muki, central

He was staying at Bangabandhu Hall of Dhaka University under Titu's shelter

sons and one daughter of her parthe afternoon. Sony will be buried ents. Her father Habibur Raman today Meanwhile, in an emergency meeting in the afternoon the BUET Bhuiyan is a staff of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar T&T office. Her mother Dilara Begum is an official of Sonali Bank authorities condemned the Head Office in Motijheel. They hail and urged the government to take from Bijeswar of Brahmanbaria and immediate steps so that no such are residing at Uttara Sonali Bank tragic incident repeats itself at Officers Quarters. BUET. As the news of the tragic incident All academic activities of the university have been suspended spread on the BUET campus, hundreds of students and teachers today in memory of Sony. rushed to the DMCH morgue to Hasına have a last glimpse of Sony. A heartrending scene took place when FROM PAGE 1 Sony's mother went there. "Why did including 458 children have been send my only daughter to BUET? raped and another 209 fell victim to What is the meaning of higher acid attacks between October and education?" she asked the students April. Also in this time, one journalist and teachers, wailing and suffering was killed and at least 144 were fits intermittently. She was repeatattacked, 475 people were abducedly being unconscious seeing the ted and 189.541 threatened. dead body of her only daughter. "The government savs people Students and teachers alike have voted them to power to estabexpressed their strong resentment lish a crime-free society. But has the over the escalation of terrorism on society been made free of crime? the BUFT campus. the opposition leader asked adding Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque that crimes like murder, rape, mug-Hossain Khoka, Education Minister ging and repression on religious Osman Farook and State Minister minorities are increasing by the day. for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Criticising Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman for not acknowledg-Babar went to the morgue to see the body of Sony. ing the deteriorating law and order Khoka said the killer will be situation in his budgetary speech arrested and punished. Asked by the opposition leader, as a reminder, journalists about the government's said that donors had asked to mainfailure to contain terrorism, Khoka tain good governance, protect said a concerted effort is needed to human rights, and improved law and order, for foreign aid grants. "But curb terrorism. When Khoka was talking the government has failed to ensure any of these and fell short in receivreporters, some agitated BUET students shouted at him and wanted ing any foreign assistance", she said. "Denmark has withdrawn a to know how many more students would be required to die due to project assistant of Tk. 268 core on charges of corruption by a minister, politics. Relatives, friends and class-Hasina added. mates of Sony believe at the hospi-A sharp rise in the crime rate has been the biggest embarrassment tal were fuming. "We have been for the coalition government of hearing about the arrest and punish-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who ment of the killers but not a single of them have been punished so far. formerly termed the crime scenario during her predecessor, Sheikh Because, they all get freed due to Hasina. as "unbearable" political influence," regretted a

carried the body of Sony from the hospital morgue to her Uttara residence. The body was later taken to her village home in Brahmanbaria in

made it 3-0 when Ronaldo was

hauled down in the box by China

defender Du Wei, Ronaldinho

stepping up to convert the spot-kick.

Fan Zhiyi and key defender Sun

Jihai, had begun the match brightly

and got the first shot on goal through

Qi Hong.

came

TEAMS

71), Polga

Ronaldo 55.

Junior.

the backfoot.

China, missing injured skipper

But it was a fleeting excursion

Hopes of a goal were raised in

into Brazilian territory and for most

of the match China were firmly on

the second half when Zhao Junzhe

rattled the woodwork with a curling

shot, but it was the nearest China

Brazil: Marcos, Cafu (capt), Lucio,

Roque, Carlos, Silva, Ronaldo

(Edilson 72), Rivaldo, Ronaldinho

(Denilson 46), Juninho (Ricardinho

Booked: Ronaldinho, Roque

China: Jiang Jin, Wu Chenying, Li

Tie, Ma Mingyu (Pu Yang 62), Hao

Haidong (Qu Bo 75), Li Weifeng,

Zhao Junze, Du Wei, Li Xiaopeng,

Qi Hong (Zhao Junzhe 67), Xu

Referee: Anders Frisk (Sweden)

un long.

Goals: Carlos 15, Rivaldo 32,

Ronaldinho 45 (penalty),

Attendance: 36,750

Oil, Gas and Road-Shipping Workers-Employees Council yesterday staged a demonstration in protest against the government decision to privatise all profit-making installations in the oil sector.

vho tapped in his second goal of the

"It was a good day for me,"

Ronaldo said afterwards. "I scored

another goal and I'm feeling better

physically. Hopefully I'll score some

long before then, Brazil surging into

Roberto Carlos free-kick from 25

metres on 15 minutes, the Real

Madrid star sending a left-footed

thunderbolt rocketing past the

gave Jiang no chance, questions

will be asked about the positioning

of Jiang's wall, which left a sizeable

part of the Chinese goal exposed. It

was Roberto Carlos' first successful

free-kick since his famous swerving

effort against France at the Tournoi

Brazil went close to doubling

their lead soon afterwards, when

skipper Cafu burst down the flank

before thumping a right-footed shot

The Brazilians doubled their goal

tally on 32 minutes through a simple

move which split the Chinese

which Jiang beat away.

Though the velocity of the shot

diving Jiang Jin into the net.

The match had been wrapped up

They went ahead with a stunning

tournament from close-range.

more goals in the next game.'

R-force fires Brazil

a 3-0 half-time lead.

in 1997

defence.

"We're not bothered about who our next opponent will be. It can be anybody - it's too early to think about it." he said.

Despite the heavy defeat, China's experienced coach Bora Milutinovic was satisfied with his team's performance.

"I'm not happy with the result - it's always disappointing to lose - but I'm happy with the spirit showed by our players," said Milutinovic, the only man to coach five countries at different World Cups.

"We showed a lot of personality tonight against a strong team. It was a better performance than Costa Rica (a 2-0 defeat), where we made more mistakes," Milutinovic added.

China had gone into the encounter anxious to avoid a rout but their worst fears came true in 90 painful minutes as Brazil strolled to victory.

Time and again China were sliced apart by Brazil's attackers, to the dismay of thousands of Chinese fans inside the Seogwipo Stadium who had hoped for a miracle.

Ronaldo's goal on 55 minutes completed the scoring, though Brazil had several chances to increase their victory margin throughout the second half.

Rivaldo swept a majestic long ball out to Cafu on the right flank, who danced past his marker before squaring to the unmarked Ronaldo

A clipped cross from the left flank by Ronaldinho found Rivaldo lurking in the six-yard box and the Barcelona star finished clinically. On the stroke of half-time Brazil

BUET student dies

FROM PAGE 1

Sony was the eldest among two

renovation of the house before the incident. Hasan had hired an assistant named Badal, carpenter Shaniram -- both now accused-and some more people to do the job.

dered. Her bedroom was on the

eastern side of her parents' bed-

room on the ground floor of the

Rahman said that Hasan, an

engineer and now an accused in the

case, was given a contract for

FROM PAGE 1

residence, he said

A visibly emotional and often sobbing. Rahman said there was a party at his residence on April 23, 1998. At least 30 guests attended it.

He returned home at about 6-30 in the evening. He found the security lights around the house off and those remained so afterwards also, he recalled.

At about 8 pm, he went to Shazneen's bedroom and found that a TV set was on and she was reading a book. He told her to take her dinner and go to bed.

"That was the last time I saw her,' Rahman said. Then he went upstairs where the guests were gathering. The dinner ended shortly after10 pm. After some time, he heard a cry, came out and found an old domestic help, Moslem Hawlader, crving and saving what had happended to 'Chhoto Baby' (nick name of Shazneeen). He then rushed to Shazneen's room and found her lying on the floor in front of the bathroom. Her body bore a number of injury marks and blood spilled on the floor. On the left side of her neck, there was a deep wound He then cried out that Chhoto Baby had died and hearing this his wife rushed there, he said in his deposition.

Later, his eldest daughter Simin Hossain, her husband Walker Hossain, second daughter Sheii and her husband also came there His son also arrived. But 10 to 12 people including carpenter Shaniram were lying nearby, pretending to be asleep, despite all the noises around, Rahman said.

At about 11 pm, a doctor from Gulshan Group Clinic arrived. He came to know that the physician was informed by a relative, Rahman said.

Afterwards, he learnt that Shahid, the prime accused who worked as a domestic help and an assistant to cook Abdul Mannan. was missing from the residence. The cook informed him that a kitchen knife was missing. From this, he suspected that Shahid along with some others was involved in the incident.

Rahman recalled that friends, relations and many others started visiting his residence on hearing the

then came to his residence and completed the inquest at about 3

Next morning at about 7-30, he saw a well dressed Hasan coming to his house. It surprised him because he had never seen him neatly dressed, Rahmnan went on.

Later, he came to know that his cousin Atiqur Rahman informed Hasan over telephone that Shazneen died, Hasan had telephoned a friend,

Bappi, on the incident. But he did not make phone calls to him (Rahman) On that night, his cousin Mahtabur Rahman Maruf also telephoned Hasan and informed him about Shazneen's death, he told the court.

On April 24, the namai-e-ianaza of Shazneen was held at Gulshan mosque. But Hasan did not attend her janaza and burial. On April 26, he came to attend the Kulkhwani of Shazneen but left after some time on the plea of sickness. He was also missing for the next three days Rahman mentioned. Latifur Rahman further said that

on April 1, Hasan had said that eight glasses in the bathroom of Shazneen were defective and asked Shazneen to those. As she went there, he grabbed her with an ill motive. Shazneen pushed him aside and warned him that she would tell her father about this so that he is punished. On April 2 Shazneen with her

elder sister Simin and Sheji and their children went to visit Marina Tea Garden at Kulaura in Sylhet.

Shazneen had later told her elder sisters that Hasan grabbed her in the bathroom. Her sisters and their husbands had decided to inform Rahman about this incident, the court was told.

All the accused -- Shahid. Hasan, Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin- were present in the court during the hearing. They are in jail custody

The Shazneen murder case is now pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka. It was earlier stayed by the High Court following a defence petition. The stay order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

Special Public Prosecutor Arfanuddin Khan. ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul. Mahbub Ahmed advocates Mohammad Ali Hossain Saima Khanam and Delwar

Ban to benefit

accused.

FROM PAGE 12 sons and family members are the mporters

> Around 98 per cent buyers prefer Japanese reconditioned vehicles and the environment ministry does not have any objection to their import, they said.

Around Tk 290 crore (50 million dollars) is now spent annually for import of Japanese reconditioned vehicles with latest technology. The cost will rise to at least Tk 1740 crore (300 million dollars) to import new vehicles to meet the same demand, they said.

The BARVIDA president urged the finance minister 'not to be influenced by Indian agents' and to take the right decision in the interest of the country and the people.

As prices of Indian vehicles are much less than those of the Japanese ones. Indian cars will flood the market, increase pollution and widen Bangladesh's trade deficit with India, he pointed out.

Anwar Hossain said the extent of pollution created by a one-year old Indian vehicle is higher than that by a five-year old Japanese one. Japanese vehicles have built-in catalytic converters. As the Indian vehicles have carburetor engine with outdated technology, these are not popular in any country of the world, he said.

"We are ready to take any challenge in this regard".

Referring to the finance minister's statement that Sri Lanka has also banned import of reconditioned vehicles, he said, in fact, they import vehicles 3 to 10 years old

BARVIDA General Secretary Abdul Mannan Chowdhury said members of the members have closed their show rooms and stopped releasing vehicles from

About 10,000 to 12,000 reconditioned vehicles are imported annually and 98 per cent of the buyers prefer these vehicles, he said.

Former director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Abdul Hoque, also a BARVIDA member, said several hundred importers and a large number of Bangladeshis in Japan involved in the trade will be seriously affected inancially by the proposed ban.

2002 released along with the budget 1996-'97 documents on Thursday said that

food import started falling. After 1998, food import dipped to 21 lakh tons in 1999-2000 and to little over 15 lakh tons in 2000-2001.

Encouraged by the increase in domestic production, the then AL government in its last budget in fiscal 2001-2002 had proposed 25 per cent duty on rice import. Earlier, there were 10 per cent regulatory duty and 5 per cent import duty on rice

In 1993-'94 and 1994-'95 financial years, crop production showed a negative growth, largely because

FBCCI hails budget

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, reduction of corporate tax on listed and private limited companies, bringing government employees and commercial activities of NGOs under the tax net, simplification of self-assessment of personal tax. reduction of discretionary power of tax officials and rationalisation of tax administration and allocation of Tk 400 crore for golden handshake programme are also welcome moves, it added.

On the other hand, lowering the taxable income ceiling to Tk 75,000 from Tk 100.000, withdrawal of tax holiday for expansion units of industries and imposition of tax on certain private educational institutions are some of the negative elements of the budget, the DCCI said.

It said small and medium enterprises will be badly affected due to increase of VAT at retail stage Increase of duty on capital machinery and industrial raw material from 5 per cent to 7.5 per cent will also badly affect industries

It suggested reduction of import duty on milk power, sugar, crude edible oil, cement, lubricating oil, tyre and tube and computer hard-

The DCCI statement was issued after a reviewed of the proposed budget with its president Matiur Rahman in the chair.

The BGMEA in a statement said the proposed budget does not reflect expectations of readymade garment (RMG) exporters.

The proposed duty cut on import of textile spares and pre-fabricated items will boost the textile sector and other industries.

Duties on import of machinery and spares used in the RMG sector should also be removed, it said.

On June 2, Agriculture Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami said that in the current fiscal (2001-2002) there his gang. was a surplus production of 20 lakh tons. He also hoped that Bangladesh would be a food export-

ing country in future Agriculture experts say production increase is a continuous process, which needs policy support and subsidy. Recognition also came from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the form of its prestigious Ceres Award. There is

nothing to score by denying the fact that "we're producing enough to feed ourselves."

> The BGMEA urged the finance minister to provide policy support to RMG exporters and to continue the provision of tax holiday for expansion units of industries.

The budget will help reduce poverty, it said.

The Bangladesh Agro Processors' Association (BAPA) said income tax exemption for agrobased industries will help reduce poverty and create jobs in the rural eas

But enhancement of duty on sugar will affect agro-processing industries, BAPA President Amjad Khan Chowdhury said in a statement

Dhaka worried FROM PAGE 1

categorically stated, to mediate between Pakistan and India.

But, being a country in south Asia, he said, Bangladesh cannot remain unconcerned at the continued threat of a nuclear war in the region.

He conveved the areetinas of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to President Musharraf

Morshed and his Pakistan counterpart Abdul Sattar held a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where the Bangladesh Foreign Minister raised the issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and hoped for an early resolution to the issue

Earlier, Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar received Morshed Khan at Islamabad airport on his arrival.

assistant organising secretary and former BUET unit general secretary of the JCD, was on the BUET campus at the time to fend off Titu and

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, president of suspended central committee of the JCD, reportedly backs both factions. General Secretary of the DU unit of the JCD Mostafizul Islam Mamun leads the 'Pintu group' on the DU campus.

Witnesses said both the groups locked in a scuffle when Titu and his cadres tried to enter the administrative building area. Obstructed, Titu and his men took position in front of Ahsanullah Hall opposite the Shaheed Minar while Muki and his followers stationed themselves in front of the BUET cafeteria.

Campus sources said at about 12:45pm Titu and his men suddenly started firing gunshots. Muki group also fired back. All this was happening right in front of the police who were deployed at the Shaheed Minar. At least 30 gunshots were fired during the half-an-hour shootout.

"Sony who was on her way to the lone female hall of BUET when she was caught in the crossfire in front of Shaheed Minar." said an eyewitness who resides in Sher-e-Bangla Hall, adjacent to the Shaheed Minar. "I came out of my first floor room immediately after the firing started and saw a girl student fall on the

ground," the student said, adding that some armed men were wearing lungi Nafiza Islam, a friend of Sony

told The Daily Star yesterday that most students of their class went to the department in the morning after a weeklong vacation. "We were on holiday after completion of our midterm exams."

elative

tense

"No-one was in mood to attend classes and we all demanded vacation for another week to enjoy the World Cup. Later, we went to the café and gossiped there. I left Sonv and others at the café at about 12:30. But I never imagined that this would be our last meeting," said a tearful Nafiza

"The gunfight over, I heard that a female student of our department was shot. Then I rushed to the Dhaka Medical (College Hospital) morgue only to see her lying there dead.

An outsider, Mukul (full name could not be known immediately) belonging to the Titu group, was also shot during the shoot-out. But he was not admitted to any city hospitals probably to escape arrest

The BNP government claims it has substantially checked crimes in the country and often blames the opposition for instigating crimes to destabilise the situation

Sheikh Hasina called yesterday's press conference to give her reaction to the proposed budget for 2002-03 fiscal year, which she said was made to protect the interests of

the ruling people and their riches. The opposition leader threatened to launch a street agitation aimed at forcing the government to revise its proposed budget by withdrawing additional taxes on common people.

loyal to the Titu group. She, however, did not say specif-Additional police forces have ically whether her party would join been deployed on the DU and BUET the current budget session of the campuses as the situation was parliament. "Wait and see," she told a reporter.

The students and teachers

JCD leaders and workers alleg-

edly continue unleashing criminal

activities across the country despite

the BNP suspended the activities of

the JCD central committee in

December last year following wide-

spread reports of their involvement

raided SM, Bangabandhu and

Surva Sen halls of Dhaka University

and arrested 47 persons, including

Saidur Rahman, organising secre-

tary of Surya Sen Hall and one

Masud. Both of them are said to be

Police and paramilitary BDR

in criminal offences