

## Budget unrealistic

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official statistics in his budget speech.

"This budget has been formulated 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 projects. "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 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 government'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 crore.

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 borrowing."

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.

## GDP, GNI

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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 June 6.

A budget analysis by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has attributed this decline to the fact that income 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

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power 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 per 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 license 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.

## Italy in trouble

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most 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 Ivica 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 half-cleared 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 rub 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 Prosinecki

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 long.

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 (Materazzi 23), Cannavaro, Maldini, Zambrotta, Zanetti, Tommasi, Doni (Inzaghi 79), Totti, Vieri

**Booked:** Vieri  
**Goals:** Vieri 56

**Croatia:** Pletikosa, Robert Kovac, Simunic, Saric, Jarni, Tomas, Radoic (Simic 79), Niko Kovac, Saldic (Vranjes 62), Vugrinec (Olic 57), Boksic

**Booked:** Robert Kovac.  
**Goals:** Olic 73, Rapaic 76  
**Attendance:** 36,472.

**Referee:** Graham Poll (England)



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.

PHOTO: STAR

## R-force fires Brazil

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"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

who tapped in his second goal of the tournament from close-range.

"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 more goals in the next game."

The match had been wrapped up long before then, Brazil surging into a 3-0 half-time lead.

They went ahead with a stunning Roberto Carlos' free-kick from 25 metres on 15 minutes, the Real Madrid star sending a left-footed thunderbolt rocketing past the diving Jiang Jin into the net.

Though the velocity of the shot 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 in 1997.

Brazil went close to doubling their lead soon afterwards, when skipper Cafu burst down the flank before thumping a right-footed shot which Jiang beat away.

The Brazilians doubled their goal tally on 32 minutes through a simple move which split the Chinese defence.

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

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.

China, missing injured skipper Fan Zhiyi and key defender Sun Jihai, had begun the match brightly and got the first shot on goal through Qi Hong.

But it was a fleeting excursion into Brazilian territory and for most of the match China were firmly on the backfoot.

Hopes of a goal were raised in the second half when Zhao Junzhe rattled the woodwork with a curling shot, but it was the nearest China came.

## TEAMS

**Brazil:** Marcos, Cafu (capt), Lucio, Roque, Carlos, Silva, Ronaldo (Edilson 72), Rivaldo, Ronaldinho (Denilson 46), Juninho (Ricardinho 71), Polga

**Booked:** Ronaldinho, Roque Junior.

**Goals:** Carlos 15, Rivaldo 32, Ronaldinho 45 (penalty), Ronaldo 55.

**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 Y un l o n g

**Attendance:** 36,750

**Referee:** Anders Frisk (Sweden)

## Deposition of Latifur Rahman

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dered. Her bedroom was on the eastern side of her parents' bedroom on the ground floor of the residence, he said.

Rahman said that Hasan, an engineer and now an accused in the case, was given a contract for 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.

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 after 10 pm. After some time, he heard a cry, came out and found an old domestic help, Moslem Hawlader, crying and saying what had happened to "Chhoto Baby" (nick name of Shazneen). 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 Sheji 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 had fled with some others was involved in the incident.

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

news. But one person, engineer Hasan whom his family knew for their previous two years did not come. At about 2 am, he (Rahman) along with his office manager Faisal Hossain went to Gulshan Police Station and filed a case.

A number of police personnel then came to his residence and completed the inquest at about 3 am.

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, Rahman 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 namaj-e-janaza 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 Sheikh 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, Mahbud Ahmed, advocates Mohammad Ali Hossain, Saima Khanam and Delwar

Hossain appeared in the court on behalf of the complainant wife Advocate Mosharrif Hossain Kajol, Mohammad Ali and MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam for the accused.

## Ban to benefit

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sons and family members are the importers.

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 port.

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 financially by the proposed ban.

## Saifur's claim

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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 2002 released along with the budget 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

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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 powder, sugar, crude edible oil, cement, lubricating oil, tyre and tube and computer hardware.

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

The BGMEA in a statement said the proposed budget does not reflect expectations of readymade garments (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.

of gross mismanagement in fertilizer marketing and political disturbances.

However, streamlining of fertilizer marketing and greater flow of farm credits gave dividends just two years later when food production crossed the 20-million MT mark in 1996-'97.

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

## Dhaka worried

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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 conveyed the greetings of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to President Musharrarf.

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.

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