Criminal Kamal and his four accomplices held in Uttara

UNB, Dhaka

BDR personnel and police, in a joint operation, arrested six people, including a top criminal from Baunia in the city's Uttara area in the early hours of yesterday.

The arrested people were identified as Kamal Hossain, a notorious criminal, his father Suruj Ali and four of his accomplices -- Nazrul Islam Nazu, Rokon, Azibar and

However, another listed criminal Faruk Hossain, brother of Kamal, managed to escape, police sources

Local people expressed satisfaction at the arrest of Suruj Ali and

Police said the members of Suruj Ali family are involved in killing, ties in the area. They are accused in a dozen of cases including a murder

The joint operation began at about 3 am and continued till 7 am.

Home ministry sources said the joint drive will continue in all suspected areas in the city as the criminals are trying to be regrouped for committing further crimes

Media Cell to campaign steps against crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a three-member Media Cell under the Ministry of Home to launch an effective campaign for highlighting government steps to improve law and order and curb crimes. The cell created for one year and

headed by former bureau chief of Reuters news agency and senior journalist Atiqul Alam has been given six specific responsibilities regarding publicity in the electronic and the print media.

Two other members of the cell are senior journalist Mohammad Mahfuzullah and retired deputy secretary and radio journalist Wahid-uz-Zaman. They will have an office at the home ministry.

The six jobs of the cell are:

a) Giving suggestion to the home ministry regarding publicity and public relations as well as formulation of a plan in this regard, b) Launching campaign through

newspaper and radio-television. highlighting steps taken by the home ministry for curbing terrorism and improving law and order,

c) Issuance of government version instantly to newspapers on SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

India detains 16 Bangladeshis for suspected al-Qaida links

AFP, Kolkata

Authorities in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal have arrested 16 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants suspected of having links to the al-Qaida terrorist network and Islamic militant groups operating in Indian-Kashmir, police said yesterday.

The arrests were made after a ioint raid by the police and Indian border guards late Tuesday in West SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Belt tightening a must to boost economy: Saifur

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman yesterday said the economy must have a "belt tightening" effort to increase its tax-GDP ratio and reduce dependence on foreign assistance.

"It's not that we don't need others' support at this moment, but we have to give some own resource support to attain self-reliance," he told a post-budget discussion at National Press Club, refuting criticism on income

The minister criticised the negative attitude of the people who are even unwilling to pay Tk 2,000 only against an income of Tk 100,000 per annum.

Saifur sounded optimism about implementing the annual development programme through strong supervision and close monitoring of the ruling party members

He justified the size of Annual Development Programme of Tk 19,200 crore with the revised ADP of Tk 16,000 crore plus 10 per cent for normal increment, including inflation, and 10 per cent for normal growth.

About financing sources, the minister said the agri-

considering the marginal earning of agriculture com-

Referring to a meeting with local consultative group of donors Tuesday, he said the donors assured fund support provided efficiency is achieved in macroeconomic management, good governance, law and order situation, PRSP, women's development and human rights protection.

The minister justified ban on reconditioned car import on environmental cause while increased tax on soybean oil to facilitate crushing soya seed here instead of importing it so the residue of soybean oil can be used as

Refuting criticism by the opposition, Saifur said even the opposition leader, who held the post of the top executive of the country, was so reckless to criticise it as "goat's budget." He expressed disappointment over the comment of Sheikh Hasina

The Finance Minister hoped that the budget of the 4party alliance would help boost the economy to make



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman speaking at a port-budget discussion at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Main susupects in Sony killing still at large

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

main suspects in the killing of BUET student Sabequn Nahar Sony five days ago in a cross fire between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are

They include Benzir Ahmed Titu, joint secretary and Mukammel Hayat Muki, assistant joint secretary

Proposed import duty on soyabean oil withdrawn

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday announced withdrawal of proposed 7.5 per cent import duty on sovabean oil in the budget for 2002-2003 in the greater public interest.

While delivering his winding up speech on supplementary budget for 2001-2002, the Finance Minister said that the decision to withdraw the proposed import duty on soyabean oil has been taken at the request of his cabinet colleagues and different

of the now suspended central committee of JCD. Nesar, Saiham Uddin Tagar and Masum Billah of Dhaka University.

Police however detained nine other suspects and are interrogating them. They are on remand now.

One of themSwapan actively participated in Saturday's gunfight, witnesses said.

Another detained

personMunnais said to one of the gunslingers on that day, but there is lack of evidence for this till now, police said. Sources in the JCD said some of

those involved in the incident are staying in the city under the shelter of influential leaders of the JCD and the BNP including an MP and a commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). Others have left the capital.

Police picked up 200 students and employees of the Dhaka University and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in connection with the incident. After initial interrogation, they detained nine suspects. Four of them are canteen boys at Salimullah Hall and the others are SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Election to 9 municipalities on July 20

UNB, Dhaka

Elections to nine more pourasavas will be held on July 20.

The Election Commission (EC) announced the schedule for seven out of the nine pourasavas yesterday as the schedule for the two other pourasavas was announced earlier

The seven pourasavas are Patgram pourasava of Lalmonirhat, Singair of Manikganj, Sreepur of Gazipur, Bhanga of Faridpur, Sharishabari pourasava of Jamalpur, Kamalganj pourasava of Moulavibazar and Ramgati pourasava of Laxmipur districts.

As per the election schedule, June 24 has been fixed for submit ting nomination papers to the returning officers while scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on the following day.

The last date of withdrawal of candidature is July 1.

The schedule for Mirkadim pourasava of Munsiganj and Swandip pourasava of Chittagong announced earlier by the EC will remain unchanged, the EC press release said.

'Budget has no meaning as long as JS fails to function properly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain has said the proposed budget would not meet people's expectations so long as the parliament fails to function as an effective forum.

"Absence of the opposition from the parliament prevents meaningful debates which could identify serious obstacles to economic development," Dr Kamal said in his budget reaction.

He underscored the need for an end to violence, extortion and corruption. What is needed most is political stability and rule of law, he

Kamal said influence of black money and arms must be elimi SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Govt firm to stop cheating in public exams: PM UNB. Dhaka

Prime minister Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated her government's determination to restore disciplines ensure security and a corruption free environment in public examinations.

Answering to a guestion from Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin in parliament she said the Education Ministry was organising seminars and meetings in all the Education Boards and important district towns to create awareness against the tendency of cheating in examina-

The State Minister for Education nimself is leading the campaign, she

"Arrangements have been made to broadcast slogans and warnings over Radio and Television to inform and motivate the people, she told the

The government programmes also include telecast of short films for building awareness.

Khaleda also mentioned the steps to set up video cameras in identified centres to monitor the activities of those who assist ir

BSF abducts 2 Bangladeshis

BSS, Rajshahi

Two Bangladeshi nationals were abducted by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from near Chamusha village under Bholahat upazila of Chapainawabganj district yesterday morning, BDR officials of Rajshahi sector said.

The abducted persons were dentified as Azizul Haque, 36, son of Abdul Haque and Sonarul Haque, 32, son of Khoka Sarker of village

BDR officials said the two were abducted from near zero point close to the border Pillar No 197/1-

Hearing the news, BDR personnel of Chamusha BOP sent a letter to their counterparts protesting the

PDB explains reasons behind revenue losses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has incurred a revenue loss of Tk 5741.11 million in 2000-01 fiscal and Tk 5236.81 million in 1999-2000 fiscal by selling power to the agriculture and domestic sectors as well as to the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and Rural Electrification Board (REB).

Responding to Sunday's comments by the World Bank Country Director Frederic T Temple on subsidy and losses in the country's energy sector, the BPDB yesterday also said it does not get any subsidy from the government.

The WB official at a seminar in the city on Sunday also said the BPDB has lost around Tk 5 billion annually in last two years. The BPDB in a statement yesterday also explained the reasons behind the losses it incurred.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

BDR, police raid 2 JU halls: 3 held, arms recovered

JU CORRESPONDENT

Police and BDR personnel recovered nine firearms and arrested three students from two residentia halls of the Jahangirnagar University yesterday

The joint team recovered four revolvers, one pistols, three rifles, a gun with 94 bullets and crackers from ASM Kamaluddin Hall and Moulana Bhashani Hall during the three-hour raid that began at 3 pm.

The arrested students are Bablu a third year student of Philosophy Department, Sheikh Kabir, an MA student of Philosophy and Shamim of Archeology Department.

Bablu was arrested from Kamaluddin Hall while Kabir and Shamim were arrested from Moulana Bhashani Hall.



Chakma. They also protested non-publication of inquiry report on Kalpana's abduction. Kalpana Chakma remained untraced since her abduction from an election rally in Chittagong Hill Tracts on June 12, 1996.

Suppl budget passed

Relief ministry spends Tk 200.31 cr, PMO Tk 37.44 cr beyond budgetary allocation tion ministry and the primary and

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday approved a supplementary budget of Tk 689.57 crore for the outgoing 2001-02 fiscal

The additional money was spent on 49 heads under different ministries and divisions during the rules of incumbent BNP-led coalition government and of the last caretaker

government quit 15 days after approving the 2001-02 national Of the additional expenditure,

The previous Awami League

ministry spent Tk 200.31 crore alone beyond the budgetary alloca-

mass education division which accounted for Tk 77.77 crore and Tk 25.76 crore respectively. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) spent Tk 37.44 crore extra

while the additional cost for the

cabinet division stood at Tk 1.98 The supplementary expenditure for the telecommunications ministry n the last one year was Tk 58.96 crore, while the health ministry

spent an additional Tk34.01 crore. The government's supplementary spending was Tk 10.61 crore and Tk 84.18 crore for the newly established expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry and the Liberation War affairs ministry tion. It was followed by the educa-

Other heads of additional costs include planning division Tk 38.37 crore, communications ministry Tk 38.41 crore, local government division Tk 12.82 crore, housing ministry Tk 10.67 crore, information ministry Tk 6.68 crore and religious affairs ministry Tk 5.81 crore.

The pro-Ershad Jatiya Party moved 46 cut motions on the extra expenditures but the House rejected them by voice vote

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar allowed the JP lawmakers to speak on their cut motions on four heads PMO, cabinet, education and local government. They alleged that the government spent the extra money for petty party interests. But the ministers concerned refuted the SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Motia on food autarky

Saifur deceived nation thru' wrong statistics

Law-breaker lawyer

Colleague beaten for freeing convict

Lawyers yesterday beat up one of their colleagues at the High Court premises for freeing convicts on bail by submitting false documents.

The incident took place amid reports that lawvers with the help of

A day before, a High Court Division Bench detected a forgery by the

Yesterday, a separate High Court Division Bench announced that it

Both incidents enraged the High Court lawyers yesterday and when

Lawyers told The Daily Star that they believed that a cartel of lawyers,

On Tuesday, a High Court Division Bench comprising justices Amirul

accused persons are having them freed on bail through submission of

same lawyer-- AKM Imamul Haq and another lawyer. The High Court

has detected another forgery by Imamul Haq and his associates. The

bench ordered the crooked lawyers to appear before the court on June

some of them ran into Imamul, they beat him up for bringing the profes-

court employees and outsiders has been doing this crime in the High

Kabir Chowdhury and Nizamul Hag detected that a convict named

on bail using fake documents

asked both lawyers to appear before it on June 17.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday said the finance minister deceived the nation and the international community as well by what it said providing wrong statistics on food import in his budget speech on June The main opposition party's

Agriculture Secretary and former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury also brushed aside Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman's claim that the AL was dishing out 'propaganda' regarding the country's attaining food autarky. Motia was speaking at a press

conference at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday. Senior party colleagues including Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, former finance minister SAMS Kibria and Abdul Jalil were also present. Motia refuted the finance minis-

ter's statistics that the country imported on average more than 17 lakh tonnes of foodgrains a year during the 1991-96 period of the previous BNP government. "The average food import during the

STAR REPORT

forged documents.

1991-96 period was almost 30 lakh tonnes a year."

Motia quoted the food import statistics of the food ministry that showed the average yearly import was precisely at 29.77 lakh tons between 1991 and 1996. In his budget speech, the finance

minister had said, "The Awami League government carried out widespread propaganda that the country had attained food autarky. Some relevant statistics however indicate exaggerations in this claim... During the Awami League rule, import of food... increased and average annual import stood at 2.4 million tons. Had the country really achieved self-sufficiency in food why [did] the volume of food import

Referring to yearly food import volume of 24 lakh tons during the 1996-2001 AL rule, Motia said "cunningly and deliberately the finance minister did not explain why the country had to import 54 lakh tons of foodgrain in 1998-99".

Bangladesh to colse down its mission in Brazil

M ANWARUL HAQ

Bangladesh is closing down its mission in Brazil, the only one in

Foreign ministry sources confirmed that the mission in Brasilia is being closed down and the Bangladesh flag will be lowered there on August 31.

No definite reason has been given for closing the lone mission in the heart of Latin America. It was opened more than two decades ago. Sources however attributed the

closure to 'insufficient available Noor Hossain, Ambassador to Brazil, is making preparations for winding up the mission, sources

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Some rtd army officers meet Hasina again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Retired army officers who took part in the last general election on Awami League (AL) ticket met AL chief Sheikh Hasina for the second time in a week yesterday and discussed the party's ongoing overhauling

In the first meeting on June 8, the AL chief had sought a proposal on how the party could be made more dynamic. She had also asked for their comment on why all but two of the retired defence officers lost the election race. Yesterday's meeting SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 13		6-47 pm
June 14	5-11 am	
Draver Timings		

Prayer Timings June 13

Azan **Jamaat** 4-15 Fair 4-45 1-15 12-45 Zohr 5-15 5-00 Maghrib 6-55 6-51 8-45 8-15 Source: Islamic Foundation

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