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Budget papers to be available on website for people's input

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national budget for the fiscal year 2007-08 will be announced on June 7 and the budget documents will be made available on the website for incorporating suggestions from people, Finance Adviser AB Mirza Mohammad Azizul Islam said yesterday.

Before declaration through an ordinance, the budget documents will be approved by the advisory council, he told the journalists after inauguration of a two-day long seminar organised by Social Science Research Council at the auditorium of National Economic Council.

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Sheikh Selim, Mintoo remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and former FBCCI president Abdul Awal Mintoo were sent to three and four days of remand in custody respectively by a Dhaka court yesterday.

The two were among those who were picked up in high profile raids by the joint forces on Monday.

The same court also sent Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar to Dhaka Central Jail with a recommendation for 30 days' detention. Police in a separate forwarding report

placed before the court alleged that as a BNP leader he accumulated a huge amount of money and properties through corruption, using his political clout.

Meanwhile, the army-led joint forces twice went to the Gulshan residence of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday afternoon but they did not disclose why they had gone there.

Sources said about five members of the joint forces went to Saifur's house around 5:00pm and stayed there for about 15 minutes guarding the main entrance.

As they left the place, another team of troops arrived at the house

and stayed there for several minutes.

A caretaker of the house told journalists that the forces went there around 5:00pm and left a few minutes later.

He said Saifur Rahman was in the house then but the forces did not talk to him. He also said they talked to the staff of the house and left saying there was 'no problem'.

The joint forces sources however said their presence at Saifur's house was not a raid rather it was a routine security check on the former finance minister's residence during patrol.

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KEPZ gets licence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a fresh decision taken late last month, the government yesterday handed over the operating licence of the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) to Youngone.

This drew the end to the basic hurdle for the South Korean Youngone group to start inviting investors at the country's biggest private export processing zone located on 2500 acres of land by the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong.

But before the KEPZ can physically start investing, the government will have to issue a gazette notification and statutory regulatory order to allow investment materials to enter Bangladesh under the KEPZ framework, sources said.

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27TH BCS EXAMS

Govt asks PSC to cancel viva voce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Council of advisers to the caretaker government yesterday requested the Public Service Commission (PSC) to cancel the viva voce of the controversial 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations and immediately reschedule the viva for all successful candidates of the written examinations.

An unscheduled meeting with Chief Adviser Dr Fakruddin Ahmed in chair scrutinised the emerging irregularities in the 27th BCS, especially in the viva voce, and approved a proposal for the PSC to cancel the viva voce.

"The meeting took the decision after reviewing newspaper reports and various allegations about the 27th BCS examination in order to restore confidence in public mind and establish transparency in the recruiting process for public jobs," a government handout said.

Of over 1.43 lakh examinees at the preliminary test held on November 18, 2005, some 26,500 candidates took the written examinations held in March-April, 2006, and 16,342 candidates attended the viva voce held between September and December the same year.

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Hasina thinks present drive aims at her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the present drive of the joint forces is aimed at her.

"She [Hasina] told me that the

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Ershad's graft case resumes

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of a graft case filed 16 years back against former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and five others began at a Dhaka court yesterday.

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Six die as mercury hits new high

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the country experiencing the hottest day of this summer yesterday, death toll from heat wave rose to six in last two days and hospitals are crammed with patients of diarrhoea and other diseases related to extreme heat.

According to met office sources, the highest temperature was 40.2 degrees Celsius in Ishwardi yesterday. In Dhaka, the temperature was 37.4 degrees Celsius.

Of the deceased, four were from Chuadanga. They are Biprodhar Biswas of Rakhtala, Joyal Ali of Dauki and Mika Kazi of Chhatrapar village under Alamdanga upazila and Sahar Banu of Darshana Mohammadpur of Damurhuda upazila.

In Comilla, Suvash Chandra, 55, of South Mohammadpur of Daudkandi upazila and Shonkori Das, 45, of Gopalbazar Bazar of Faridganj upazila also died of heat stroke.

Samarendra Karmakar, a met office director, said there is no respite from this intolerable heat in next two days. However, there is a possibility of rain on June 1.

The temperature is likely to rise in some parts of Rajshahi and Jessore regions today.

The hospitals are struggling to cope with a sudden rush of diarrhoeal patients with hundreds of new sufferers arriving everyday.

Azhar, a doctor of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B),

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Leaders gather at Zia's grave under strict vigilance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 26th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman was observed across the country yesterday in limited scale due to government restrictions on political gatherings under the state of emergency.

Leaders, activists, and supporters of BNP and its front organisations paid tribute to the late president and the founder of their party by offering their prayers at his grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital, led by party Chairperson Khaleida Zia.

Although only a selected number of leaders got permission to go to the mausoleum with their party

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BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia along with party leaders places wreaths at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman yesterday marking his 26th death anniversary.

More wealth found with forest chief

Joint forces recover 2kg gold, more cash, papers of fixed deposits, flats, plots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces yesterday recovered 2kg gold ornaments from a bank locker of Chief Conservator of Forests Osman Gani and Tk 6.95 lakh more in cash and documents of Tk 5 lakh in fixed deposit and ownership of flats and plots from his Uttara residence.

The police filed two separate cases against the Forest Department chief under the Emergency Power Rules and the Passport Act after Tuesday's recovery of Tk 1 crore hidden inside a pillow and a rice drum in his house. Gani was detained following the recovery.

A Dhaka court yesterday put Gani on a four day-remand in the case filed under the Emergency Power Rules and on a three-day remand in the case filed under the Passport Act.

Following Gani's confessional statement during interrogation on Tuesday night, the joint forces went to his house and made the latest recovery. The money was found in a hidden briefcase.

In its two-and-half-hour raid, the joint forces also seized documents regarding Gani's ownership of several flats and plots in the capital, bank papers including chequebooks, defence savings

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