

### Pro-BNP interns clash at DMCH, 10 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong clash between the two factions of BNP-backed Intern Doctors Association of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) over the formation of a new committee yesterday left 10 injured.

The medical services of the hospital were also disrupted, as the senior doctors remained busy resolving the dispute.

Five of the injured doctors Mohammad Jahid, Mamun Shiblee, Aminul Islam Partha, SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

### US immigration bill nears passage

Millions of illegals to get chance to win citizenship REUTERS, Washington

A sweeping immigration law overhaul that would toughen border security and give millions of illegal immigrants a chance to earn US citizenship headed for Senate passage on Thursday and backers prepared for a bruising battle with the House of Representatives.

Senate Majority Leader Bill SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

### CMCH OUTAGE Probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A three-member enquiry committee was formed here yesterday to investigate the Wednesday's power cut at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for around 10 hours that allegedly caused death to two patients of Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Public Works Department (PWD), entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring smooth power and water supply to the hospital, formed the committee after holding SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

### Outlaw killed in 'shootout' with Rab

UNB, Naogaon

A regional commander of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was killed in an encounter between his cohorts and members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Ratowal village in Raninagar upazila of the district early yesterday.

He was identified as Abdur Rahim alias Bhagya alias Kiron, 30, son of Abdul Jabbar of Dewla SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

# ADP sliced 12.24pc

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has downsized the Tk 24,500 crore original annual development programme (ADP) to Tk 21,500 crore, a 12.24 per cent cut in the wake of donors' suggestions considering a sharp decline in foreign aid and a slow revenue growth.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had earlier suggested trimming the ADP by Tk 5,000 crore or 20.4 per cent. But planning ministry sources said the government has cut the ADP of fiscal year 2005-06 by Tk 3,000.

The ministry trimmed 5 per cent or Tk 2,625 crore from the ADP's local currency component that now stands at Tk 14,375 crore. Again, 5 per cent or Tk 375 crore has been cut from the foreign currency component and it now stands at Tk 7,125 crore.

Besides, the government has set the FY07 ADP target at Tk 26,000 crore, but the IMF recommends keeping it below Tk 25,000 crore, planning ministry sources said.

They said the National Economic Council in its May 28 meeting would decide the revised ADP of FY06 and also lower the ADP target for FY07, adding the finance minister has already told them what to do in preparation.

The present government downsized the ADP by such a large

amount only once in the past. In FY02, just after coming to office, it dropped Tk 3,000 crore from that year's development budget.

Usually the original ADP shrinks by Tk 1,500 to 2,000 crore during the revision, a planning ministry source said. But this year the government is considering a bigger cut due to an ebbing foreign aid inflow, revenue growth shortfall, and high oil prices in the global market.

Against the Tk 10,300 crore projected foreign aid to the current budget, in July 05 to March 06, it received merely Tk 3,136 crore, which is Tk 1,431 crore or 31 per cent less than that in the corresponding period of FY05.

The IMF reckons the total foreign aid this fiscal year may not cross Tk 6,000 crore.

The government in the budget estimated a \$200 million fourth tranche of the World Bank's Development Support Credit (DSC), sources in the Economic Relations Division said. But considering the conditions the Bank has attached to the DSC-4, its release within the tenure of the present government looks highly unlikely, they observed.

The implementation pace of other foreign-aid-funded projects is also very slow.

The revenue collection growth in the first three quarters of FY06 has also been lower than that in the

corresponding period of FY05. A total of Tk 23,042 crore has been collected July-March in FY06, posting a 12.35 per cent growth, which was 12.90 per cent in the same period in FY05.

Of the total revenue target for FY06, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is supposed to gather Tk 35,600 crore, but its actual collection may fall short by Tk 1,500 crore of the target, NBR sources said.

The persistent oil price hike in the international market has also made the government think seriously about slashing the ADP. As the government avoided adjusting the domestic oil prices with the international ones, the annual loss of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation may go beyond Tk 3,700 crore, sources said.

So, the government may opt for diverting some ADP funds to subsidising oil prices.

These are the main reasons why the IMF is advocating for downsizing the ADP and why the government is also considering the same, planning ministry officials explained.

Even if the government manages to spend the revised ADP in full, its bank borrowing would

reach near Tk 6,000 crore compared to the Tk 3,600 crore projected in the budget, they said.

### FACTORY DAMAGE Foreign investors may seek compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign investors will seek compensation from the government as they incurred huge financial losses due to the attacks on their factories and subsequent closure of those.

According to sources, foreign investors claimed that they met with a loss of around Tk 500 crore, as agitating workers vandalised and set fire to several factories at SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

### UAE to build power plants in Bangladesh

FS says on PM's visit UNB, Dhaka

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will build new power plants, including barge-mounted units, and relocate their old ones in Bangladesh and consider setting up oil refinery here.

UAE President Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan gave the assurances to Prime Minister SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



The undamaged sacks of threads at Little Star Spinning Mill Ltd in Savar being loaded onto a truck for delivery. Demonstrating workers set the factory ablaze causing a huge damage to it on Tuesday.

# Nepal frees Maoists ahead of talks

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's government said yesterday it had moved to meet a key Maoist rebel demand by freeing 467 of their comrades from prison and named a three-member team for talks to end a decade-long insurgency.

"We have already ordered the release of all Maoist detainees and so far we have released 467 detainees," Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula told reporters.

The head of the Maoist talks team told AFP on Tuesday they would only agree to talks once the

government released up to 1,300 of their men held during the bitter struggle that has crippled the Himalayan nation.

Sitaula said Tourism Minister Pradij Gyawali and Labour Minister Ramesh Lekhak would join him in talks with the rebels about a schedule for elections to a new body to rewrite the constitution.

"From the government side, we formally call on the Maoists to come to the negotiating table," he said after a cabinet meeting.

The interim government came to power after mass street protests in

April against King Gyanendra's absolute rule that left 19 dead.

Since then the government led by an alliance of seven parties has moved to cut the king's powers, including ending his control over the army, and declared the former Hindu kingdom a secular state.

The rebels, who entered a loose alliance with the parties last November, want the 1990 constitution rewritten so that the monarchy is abolished and the country declared a republic.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

# 3,176 doctors to be recruited for unions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Public Administration yesterday took the decision to appoint 3,176 doctors for the union level health and family planning centres to provide health service to the village people.

The doctors will be appointed through a special Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination or in phases with the regular BCS examinations, Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain told the reporters after the

cabinet committee meeting presided over by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman.

An earlier decision to appoint an MBBS doctor at the union level health centre under Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme could not be implemented as the doctors were supposed to be appointed on temporary basis.

The Public Service Commission cannot make any temporary appointment and so, the cabinet SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

### 2 killed in BSF firing

UNB, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down two Bangladeshi young men on Dainur border under Kotwali Police Station on Tuesday night.

According to a delayed report, the Indian border guards of SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Dried sweet-water fish are brought mainly from Brahmanbaria to meet the demand in the capital and for export as well. The picture shows porters moving sacks of dried fish at Tejgaon Railway Station yesterday.

Prayer Timing		
May 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

