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**Nagorik Committee discusses outline of vision paper**  
Determines 8 goals  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Nagorik Committee 2006 yesterday discussed the broad structure and outline of its proposed vision paper.

In its fifth meeting at the dialogue room of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the civil society body also discussed the recommendations of the Jessore, Comilla and Barisal regional dialogues at

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**British envoy worried over political violence**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury yesterday expressed concern at the surge in violent incidents in the run-up to the general elections in Bangladesh.

"Violence has no place in a democratic society. We are concerned about the surge in violent incidents in Bangladesh in recent months, including those against protesters in Kamsat and journalists in Kushtia and Chittagong," the British High Commissioner told

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# Block allocation bloats to adjust oil impact

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has kept aside in the FY06-07 budget a block allocation, which is 28 per cent more than that of the current original budget, mainly to assist the poor and farmers affected by possible adjustment of oil prices.

Sources said although the finance minister has not made any declaration in this regard, the government has a plan to introduce an "energy pricing formula" as a condition of the Poverty Reduction Growth Facilities (PRGF) loan. It is also supposed to introduce a safety net programme to minimise the effect of high oil prices on the poor and vulnerable.

It was learnt that a large part of Tk 700 crore of the block allocation in the revenue budget has been kept mainly for this safety programme.

The government has kept aside about Tk 7,395 crore as block allocation in the proposed budget for FY06-07, which is 10.6 per cent of the estimated total expenditure.

Of it, around Tk 3,263 crore has been earmarked for revenue budget, which is 162 per cent more

than that of the revised budget and 28 per cent more than that of the current original budget.

Of Tk 3,263 crore, Tk 1,434 crore has been earmarked as block allocation for assisting the development programmes under revenue budget, Tk 800 crore has been kept for unexpected expenditure, and Tk 1,201 crore for other expenditures.

Sources said Tk 500 crore from Tk 1,201 crore has been kept for completed projects in the proposed budget. The remaining Tk 701 crore will be spent for assisting the vulnerable groups and meet the demands of the ministries under the medium-term budget framework.

The allocation for other expenditures was Tk 664 crore in the original budget and Tk 571 crore in the revised budget, which was used for completed projects.

Diesel constitutes about 80 per cent of the total fuel oil consumption in the country. The recent government price adjustment will hardly reduce Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's losses.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) have been insisting for intro-

ducing the energy pricing formula within the PRGF implementation period.

About 40 per cent of the total diesel consumption is used for irrigation and this is where the farmers need to be provided with subsidies from the block allocation. The government can also think of introducing cards for the poor, like India and Sri Lanka, so that they can purchase kerosene at subsidised prices.

However, different quarters allege such allocation goes against constitutional provisions and that it might be used for political purposes.

A finance ministry source claimed the mechanism used to release money from this block allocation makes it very difficult to use this fund for political purposes.

Moreover, apart from revenue budget, around Tk 4,132 crore of the block allocation in the proposed budget has been kept for Annual Development Programme.

Of this, about Tk 3,024 crore is for different ministries and Tk 1,108 crore has been kept for different tiers of local government as well as

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**Mobile court seals off bakery in Ctg**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court here yesterday sealed off an unauthorised bakery for using rotten eggs in its products.

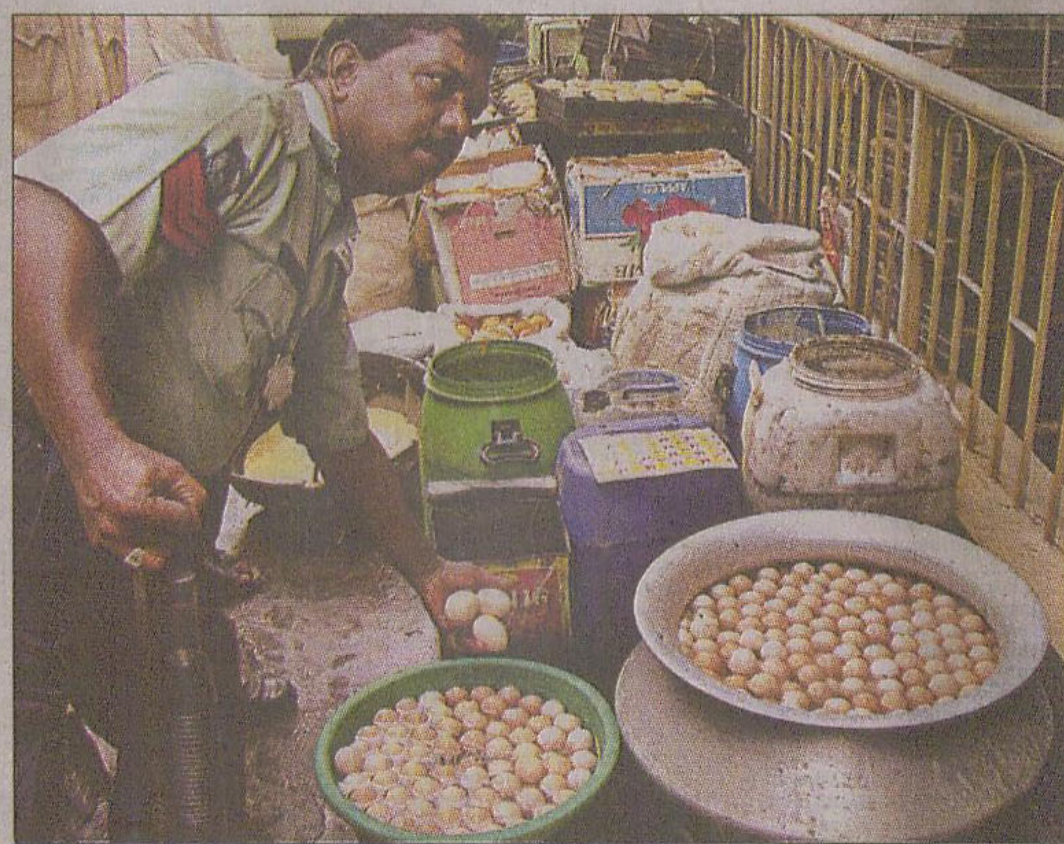
However, none could be held or fined as the owner and the staff of the bakery had fled the scene before the court reached there.

In the sudden anti-adulteration drive, the mobile court found that Fahima Food Products at the city's Goshaldanga had been running without BSTI licence for the last four years.

The factory, set up illegally on only a 100-square feet area beside a drain, produce around 1000 pieces of cakes daily to supply to different shops and hotels in the city and Rangamati, sources said.

A huge quantity of adulterated raw materials including 2,500 rotten eggs were also seized and destroyed during the drive.

CPA Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the court with the help of Bangladesh Standards & Testing Institution (BSTI) officials and Bandar police.



A mobile court seizes about 2,500 rotten eggs and other stale food items at Fahima Food Factory in Goshaldanga in Chittagong City yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**HSC exams of June 13-14 deferred**

UNB, Dhaka

The HSC examinations, scheduled for today and tomorrow (June 13 & 14) under all education boards, have been shifted to June 24 and 25 due to unavoidable reasons.

Beside, the Alim examinations, scheduled for today under Madrasa Education Board, will be held on June 24. According to a press release of the education ministry yesterday.

**JUDICIARY SEPARATION Contempt charge hearing against officials deferred**

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The hearing of the contempt charge brought by the Supreme Court (SC) against 13 bureaucrats regarding the separation of judiciary case has been further deferred until June 26 due to a time petition filed by an advocate - on record of the case.

Of the 13 bureaucrats, four face the contempt charge for non-compliance with the 12-point SC directives on the separation of judiciary, while the remaining nine for distorting the judgement of the case.

The full bench of the Appellate Division comprising Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain, Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, Justice MM Ruhul Amin, Justice Tafazzal Islam and Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury yesterday fixed June 26 for the next hearing.

Advocate Shahidul Huq filed a petition with the Supreme Court, seeking time for hearing, as chief counsel and intervener of the case Barrister M Amir-ul Islam is out of the country.

**SHIDHIRGANJ POWER PLANT Decision today whether Harbin gets project**

STAR REPORT

The board of the Electricity Generation Company Bangladesh Ltd (EGCB) will decide today whether it should award the 240-megawatt Siddhirganj peaking power plant project to incompetent Chinese company Harbin that had posed as the lowest bidder by hiding more than Tk 22 crore cost.

The project's Dutch consultant Kema International earlier this month declared Harbin's bid as

non-responsive and recommended the EGCB to begin negotiations with the other bidder Indian Bhel. However, the EGCB tender evaluation committee (Tec) ignored Kema's recommendation and recommended Harbin instead.

The EGCB board reviewed the Tec decision last week and sought a number of clarifications instead of approving it.

A Daily Star report last week prompted the state minister for

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**DHAKA SIEGE BAN Writ petition was likely to be rejected**

Justice Naimuddin says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed observed that the writ petition filed against the opposition's Dhaka siege programme was likely to be rejected summarily by the court for delayed submission, if submitted without satisfactory explanation for the delay.

The basic principle of a writ petition is the petitioner will go to the court immediately after the cause of action arises. A writ petition is likely to be rejected on the ground of maintainability if the petitioner makes unusual and inexplicable delay to file it, he told

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**BB terms Jubok's deposit collection 'illegal banking'**

Jubok collected Tk 37.78cr until '05

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Bank (BB) investigation report termed Jubo Karmasangsthan Society's (Jubok) collection of money enticing people into depositing high profit as 'illegal banking' while Jubo Karmasangsthan Society (Jubok) at a hearing before BB representatives denied the allegation.

The BB investigation report, however, did not mention how much money Jubok collected from its depositors.

A Jubok report sent to Micro Finance Research and Reference Unit of BB said it had collected a deposit of Tk 37.78 crore until December 31, 2005.

The real amount of deposit Jubok had collected is much higher than what it stated, sources said,

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**ATTACK ON AL LEADER Half-day hartal observed in Rajshahi**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League (AL) Rajshahi district unit enforced a half-day hartal in the city yesterday protesting police attack on city AL General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton during Dhaka siege programme at Saver on Sunday.

No untoward incident occurred during the hartal. Attendance at the government offices was normal, but vehicles were off the roads.

Rajshahi AL and its front organisations brought out processions and held rallies yesterday afternoon to drum up support for 36-hour countrywide hartal, beginning at 6:00am today.



PHOTO: STAR

Bepza Chairman Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf speaks to the workers of Youngone Group in Dhaka EPZ yesterday trying to calm them down. Report on page 1.

**Israel steps up threats against Palestinian PM**

REUTERS, Jerusalem

A senior member of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's party threatened Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas with assassination yesterday if the group renews suicide bombings in Israel.

The comments by Tzachi Hanegbi, chairman of parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, followed a sharp escalation of violence along the Israel-Gaza frontier and a declaration by

Hamas that a 16-month-old truce had ended.

"Yassin and Rantissi are waiting for you, Haniyeh, if you implement the same stance of liquidating Jews, indiscriminate firing, and suicide terror attacks aimed at paralysing Israeli society anew," Hanegbi said on Army Radio.

He was referring to Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a co-founder of Hamas, and Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, another leader of the Islamic militant group. Both were assassinated

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**Outlaw killed in 'shootout' with Rab**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A leader of an outlawed party was killed during a "shootout" between the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices in Joykhan area under Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district early yesterday.

Rab arrested Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Howlader alias "Dakar" Rafiq, 35, operation commander of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho), at Sonaitola under the upazila on Sunday.

On his statement, the Rab men along with Rafiq set out for Joykhan area to arrest his cohorts and

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Prayer Timing		
June 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**US calls on Iran to grab diplomatic opportunity**

UN atomic agency meets amid nuclear crisis

AFP, Vienna

The United States called on Iran yesterday to halt uranium enrichment and grab an "enormous diplomatic opportunity" as the UN nuclear watchdog opened a meeting here.

Iran should "take advantage of the enormous diplomatic opportunity that lays in front of the Islamic Republic," said the US ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Gregory Schulte.

The United States and other IAEA board members hoped Iran would decide "to refrain from further enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development," he told reporters.

But Iran appeared resolute. "Iran has achieved nuclear fuel

technology. This is our absolute right, and we will not negotiate our absolute right with anyone," Iranian government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham told reporters in Tehran.

Suspending uranium enrichment -- a process that can make fuel for nuclear energy or the explosive core of an atom bomb -- is a pre-condition for talks on benefits being offered by six world power including the United States.

Iran says it has a mandate to enrich uranium under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty because it only seeks the fuel for power generation purposes.

The United States says it believes Iran is hiding work to develop atomic weapons.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei

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**An Urgent Announcement**

Due to unavoidable circumstances the Fellowship Awarding Ceremony of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited scheduled to be held on June 13, 2006 at Hotel Purbani International, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka has been postponed and rescheduled as follows:

Date	June 20, 2006
Time	4.30 PM.
Venue	Hotel Purbani International, Dhaka

Inconvenience caused due to change of schedule is highly regretted.

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