

PMO pushes revised ADP upward

Additional allocation of Tk 530 crore sought

INAM AHMED

For the first time this year, the revised annual development programme (ADP) for the current fiscal is being stretched by over Tk 500 crore at the dictate of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

According to sources, the upcoming general election is going to play a major role behind increase in the revised ADP outlay this year. So far, the prime minister has sent demand for additional allocation in the tune of Tk 530 crore.

Requests for more fund are still pouring into the Ministry of Planning and till date, the revised ADP has been increased to Tk 18,080 crore. However, the ministry expects the amount to go as high as Tk 18,200 crore.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Tk 700 crore more than the original Tk 17,500 crore. This additional expenditure is being planned despite the fact that this year's ADP was quite ambitious with about 12 per cent growth over that of the previous year.

The prime ministerial demand for additional allocation includes Tk 130 crore on account of food programme. With the election drawing near, the government has embarked upon a wheat distribution programme, mostly among its members of parliament. One lakh metric tonnes of grains have been allocated as ADP in this regard. Rest of the amount has been earmarked for the Local Government Division (LGD) and



Film actress-turned-politician and chief of AIADMK Jayaram Jayalalitha makes a V-sign to her supporters (left) after her party recorded a landslide victory in the Tamil Nadu assembly polls. Away in West Bengal, activists rejoice as CPI (M), led by Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya (inset), renewed Red rule in the state after securing 183 of the 294 seats.



SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Film actress-turned-politician and chief of AIADMK Jayaram Jayalalitha makes a V-sign to her supporters (left) after her party recorded a landslide victory in the Tamil Nadu assembly polls. Away in West Bengal, activists rejoice as CPI (M), led by Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya (inset), renewed Red rule in the state after securing 183 of the 294 seats.



Mamata resigns as Trinamool chief

SAKYASEN MITRA, Kolkata

Seven C Harish Chatterjee Street, office of the Trinamool Congress and residence of its party chief Mamata Banerjee. Even though, her supporters and workers thronged the place yesterday, Mamata kept herself closeted in a room all throughout the day. She never came out even once. Only in the afternoon, for a brief moment, she peeked out of the door and said, "Whatever is the decision of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

the federal government.

"It is a reflection on the workings of the central government. Certain policies of theirs had impacted at the state level, like the plight of farmers and other issues," she said.

However, the ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party, which leads the federal coalition in New Delhi, was quick to play the impact on national politics.

"Vajpayee is as safe as he was ever," BJP president Jana Krishnamurthy said. "We are very sorry that our ally (in Tamil Nadu) has lost but this in no way affects our numbers in parliament."

The provincial elections are tipped to usher in a realignment of forces at the national level, political analysts said.

More than 85 million of the 132 million eligible voters took part in the polls

Sonia delights in Vajpayee plight

Mamata's Trinamool fails to make a dent in Red bastion

AFP, New Delhi

India's opposition rejoiced yesterday after trampling key allies of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in last week's provincial polls in which more than 85 million people voted.

Results of elections, held on May 10 in five Indian states, saw a clear revival of political fortunes for Italian-born Sonia Gandhi who leads the country's largest and main opposition party, the Congress.

The Congress is now poised to form local governments in three of the five states (Kerala, Assam, Pondicherry) and will be part of the ruling coalition in the fourth (Tamil Nadu).

Clearly elated, Gandhi, 53, told reporters at her New Delhi residence

Sunday that the results of these elections will "certainly" have an impact on the federal government.

"It is a reflection on the workings of the central government. Certain policies of theirs had impacted at the state level, like the plight of farmers and other issues," she said.

However, the ruling Hindu nationalist BJP party, which leads the federal coalition in New Delhi, was quick to play the impact on national politics.

"Vajpayee is as safe as he was ever," BJP president Jana Krishnamurthy said. "We are very sorry that our ally (in Tamil Nadu) has lost but this in no way affects our numbers in parliament."

The provincial elections are tipped to usher in a realignment of forces at the national level, political analysts said.

More than 85 million of the 132 million eligible voters took part in the polls

to choose among 5,000 odd candidates for 823 assembly seats in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

The elections were marred by violence claiming 19 lives in various incidents largely in Assam and West Bengal.

Perhaps second to the achievement of Gandhi was the feat of Indian communists who managed to respectfully retain one of their strongholds, the eastern state of West Bengal.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) has ruled West Bengal uninterrupted for 24 years, the longest period by any elected communist government in the world.

Of the 286 declared results in a state assembly of 294, the CPI-M has bagged a clear majority with 198 seats leaving the fiery regional opposition leader Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress, who had tied up with Congress, at 82 seats.

However, the communists did suffer a setback in the south-western state of Kerala where the Congress-led opposition romped home with 99 seats, dealing a stunning blow to the ruling communist front which took only 40 seats in the 140-member provincial house.

In south-eastern Tamil Nadu, a former actress-turned-politician, Jayaram Jayalalitha, made the most colourful and dramatic comeback, routing a key ally of the Vajpayee government, the DMK party, whose leader is a former

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Board to meet ahead of schedule 6 brigadier generals may be promoted

M ANWARUL HAQ

The government is learnt to be considering promoting some brigadier generals to the rank of major general in Bangladesh Army shortly.

Well informed sources said six brigadier generals have been listed and at least four of them will be recommended initially for promotion.

Normally such promotions are due at the end of a year or when vacancies arise and are given by the Army Promotion Board at its meeting. The Board is going to meet this year nearly three months in advance. The promotions are likely to be given before the meeting.

The sources said the Board meeting will begin on June 10.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Brussels conference begins today LDCs to press for more ODA, debt relief & market access

AP, Brussels

Leaders from the world's poorest countries gathering today for a week-long UN global conference on poverty will ask richer countries to get serious about investment, aid and debt relief.

The international gathering, the third of its kind since 1981, bring leaders of the world's 49 "least-

developed countries" together with representatives of donor nations and top business leaders to discuss how to turn around the severe economic decline.

Most of the poorest countries are in sub-Saharan Africa and south-east Asia, but they also include Caribbean and Pacific island states.

UNB adds: Enhanced flow of ODA and FDI, debt relief and free

market access are the key issues

Bangladesh and co-members of the LDC group will pinpoint at the conference.

European Union is sponsoring

the meet to work out a comprehensive Plan of Action. Another meet in June in Swedish capital will follow the Brussels meet.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

will lead the Bangladesh delegation.

She was scheduled to leave

London for Brussels yesterday.

While the conference aims to get the United States, Japan and the 15-nation European Union to increase their aid budgets, impoverished countries are also looking for access to rich export markets for their goods, and a real commitment to debt relief.

The United Nations classes 49

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

5 brokerage houses searched for stolen DSE software

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday conducted a search at five brokerage houses to recover a key market administration and control software stolen from the bourse.

The DSE move followed directions from the capital market regulators, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), to search work station of every broker to recover the stolen software.

DSE sources said that the brokerage house of its chairman was searched first and the rest later.

While looking into one of the brokers' computer, the DSE team

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

DU refutes report

The Dhaka University authorities, in a rejoinder to a report headlined 'Resident students of DU at mercy of BCL activists' published in The Daily Star on Saturday, said it is not true that BCL activists controlled seats in the residential halls.

"If this was true, then in one way or another, some persons would have had drawn the attention of the authorities," the rejoinder said.

It added that the university

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

writing of this report at 8 pm yesterday. The control tower also declined to give details.

Flight operation at the airport was not hampered due to the accident, airport sources said.

Our Special Correspondent in Dhaka adds: While the aircraft was approaching the airport from the sea beach side after completing a sortie, the pilot radioed the control

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7