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People's Right to Know

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## CMCH crippled as JCD runs amok

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Medical services at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) were as good as non-existent yesterday as unruly activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced a shutdown in the morning demanding release of four of their leaders.

The four leaders, including Shahadat Hossain Shaheen, general secretary of the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) chapter of the JCD, the ruling BNP's student wing, were arrested Monday night and sent to jail yesterday afternoon.

The other three arrested are Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Kazi Omar Faruq and Mamun Alam Khan.

Panchlath thana police arrested them on charge of exacting illegal toll from the International Institute of Business and Technology (IIBT) Market set up by the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at Probertak Morr.

The JCD sources said the activists were arrested under a 'false' charge. They added that the JCD activists went to a shop at the IIBT Market to collect an advertisement for the souvenir of the student body is publishing on the occasion of its convocation slated for July 25.

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## Hamida Ali hands over charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hamida Ali, principal of Vignarunisa Noon School and College (VNSC), has handed over, charge to her senior most colleague, ending a stand-off at the leading educational institution for girls in the city.

Rowena Hossain, 57, the senior most teacher at the VNSC, took charge following the government's 'no' to proposed extension of Hamida Ali's service for another two years. The newly elected governing

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## 'Phoney' bills irk UNDP

### UN body to hold press conference if BTTB fails to address 'bloated' bills, tampered lines

ABU SAEED KHAN

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has threatened to go public with its grievances on August 1 unless the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) stops "illegal interference" with its telephone lines and revises the 'bloated' bills by July 31.

On June 15, UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Jürgen Lissner served a 45-day ultimatum to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

He wrote to Telecom Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq that the UNDP would "have no other choice but to call a press conference on August 1" and "make all the details of this case available to the mass media", if their grievances were not addressed.

In the letter, copies of which were sent to the telecom minister, the ERD and foreign secretaries, the chairman and a director of the BTTB, Lissner also wrote that he would himself talk to the media "about the disrespectful manner in which the BTTB has dealt with UNDP".

The BTTB has billed over Tk 10 lakh for international phone calls the UNDP claims it has never made. Moreover the UNDP's ISD phone lines mostly remain dead.

The trouble began last October when Lissner's personal fax (No. 811-3196) faced frequent disruption. The line remained mostly inoperative throughout the month. Although complaints were immediately lodged, the BTTB, instead of fixing the line, sent a bill of Tk

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## Filling station strike put off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Filling-station owners yesterday put off their scheduled strike for two months.

The decision came after a meeting between State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain and Bangladesh petroleum dealers, distributors, agents and petrol pump owners, said a statement of the associations.

Presided over by the state minister, the meeting decided that the government would form a committee to withdraw its earlier decision on a commission of Tk 0.08 and Tk 0.04 a litre of petroleum, proposing a logical commission.

The committee will review the operation and evaporation loss, bring changes to the BSTI testing system, tolerance fees and take a decision on the increased tolls for trucks, covered vans and tank lorries.

The meeting also decided that the government would implement

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## Tk 664 cr goes to corrupt pockets

### New audit reports reveal

RAFIQ HASAN

The Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) office detected misappropriation of Tk 663.75 crore in 17 ministries and government offices between 1994 and 2000.

This was revealed by 32 fresh audit reports presented by Comptroller and Auditor General Muhammad Ahsan Ali Sarkar to the acting President Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday.

Out of 32, four are performance audit, 20 annual and eight special audit reports. Of the 17 ministries and organisations, five ministries share the largest slice of corruption.

These are Ministry of Finance Tk 289.57 crore, Ministry of Defence Tk 68.83 crore, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Tk 24.51 crore, Ministry of Communication Tk 41.63 crore and Ministry of Local Government Tk 29.25 crore.

The other organisations and amount of corruption mentioned in the reports are: Energy and Mineral Resource Division Tk 14.26 crore, agriculture ministry 3.48 crore, textile ministry Tk 4.93 crore, jute ministry Tk 2.13 crore, Local Government Division Tk 29.25 crore, shipping ministry Tk 2.70 crore, different overseas missions under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tk 88.04 lakh, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Tk 2.75 crore, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) Tk 4.48

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BEYOND THE REACH OF DEVELOPMENT...two girls carry driftwood home at Zafong in Sylhet yesterday. Since gas is not up for use in villages, the rural people collect firewood as an alternative.

## Powder milk import thru' land port banned

RAFIQ HASAN

The government yesterday imposed a ban on import of powder milk through all land ports except Benapal.

Import of all kinds of goods except coal and stone has also been banned by the government through six land ports.

The national board of revenue (NBR) through a statutory regulatory order (SRO) imposed the ban to check duty evasion and widespread smuggling done by a section of traders.

According to the new rule, the powder milk would be imported through seaports, airports and only through Benapal land port.

The NBR officials, however, could not state the volume of powder milk imported through land

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