regional summit following the Global

Higher Education Summit held in

Chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz and

Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology

(Buet) VC Prof AMM Safiullah were

the only representatives from

CU train hits Rab

Members of Rapid Action Battalion

(Rab) narrowly escaped casualty as

Chittagong University (CU)-bound

shuttle train rammed into a pick-

up van of the elite force near the

port city's Oxygen intersection

bearing a patrol team of the Rab-7

Chittagong was passing a level

crossing near the intersection at

also passing the crossing at the

same time and rammed into the

A CU-bound shuttle train was

However, all of the Rab men

festival to raise

funds for Amit

A two-day short film festival will

begin at the Institute of Business

University (DU) from today to raise

funds for treatment of Amit, a first

year student of Sheikh

Borhanuddin College, who is

Amit needs an advanced medi-

cal treatment which will cost

approximately Tk 10 lakh, but his

family is not financially solvent

A Europe-based short film label

Bangladeshi

girl killed in

US road crash

Kazi Meherin Hossain Pinky, 22,

daughter of Kazi Moazzem Hossain

Sabu of Chiora Kazi Bari at

Chouddagram in Comilla, was killed

in a road accident at Texas, Houston

student, was studying BBA on com-

pletion of her graduation from Elsik

6 after a namaz-e-janaza attended

by a large number of Bangladeshis.

Her Qulkhwani will be held at

Eastern Palace, 21, Siddeshwari in

the city after Maghrib prayers today.

Death anniversary

High School, says a press release.

Pinky, a bright and meritorious

She was buried in Texas on May

in the United States on May 4.

suffering from stomach cancer.

enough to afford the expenses.

Administration (IBA) of Dhaka

Sources said the pick-up van

Bangladesh at the global summit.

pick-up van

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

yesterday afternoon.

around 2:45pm.

pick-up van.

escaped injury.

Short film

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Vice

Washington on April 29 and 30.

#### DR TAHER MURDER Verdict on May 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The verdict in the Rajshahi University teacher Dr Sheikh Taher Ahmed murder case will be delivered on May 22.

Rajshahi speedy trial tribunal fixed the date on Tuesday when the three-day argument between lawyers of state and accused sides concluded. The argument began on May 4.

Journalists are not allowed at the court room to follow the trial proceedings since the case was shifted to the speedy trial tribu-

The sensational murder trial started on June 18 last year against six people, including RU teacher Dr Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin, and former RU Shibir president Mahbubul Alam Salehi.

Other accused are -- Jahangir, his brother Salam and brother-inlaw Nazmul and Azimuddin

Salehi and Mohiuddin of same department masterminded the killing promising hired killers with computers and jobs. Mohiuddin is on bail.

Dr Taher, a senior professor of geology and mining department, was killed on February 1, 2006 and his body was recovered from a sewer behind his campus residence three days later.

### Int'l surgical training begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international surgical training programme on 'Longo operation', a high-tech colorectal surgery, began at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city yesterday.

The training titled 'Masters Programme in Minimally Invasive Procedure for Hemorrhoid (MIPH)' is being organised by the department of Colorectal Surgery where 20 surgeons from home and abroad are participating.

Prof Dr AKM Fazlul Haque has been conducting the training.

The trainee surgeons will receive practical knowledge on how hemorrhoid operation can be done without trauma in the anus by the use of a modern stapling device called PPH-03.

The specialty of the surgery mostly known as 'Longo operation' is that patients can be released after 24 hours and may resume his or her activities within five to seven days, said Dr Fazlul Haque, adding that in the conventional surgery it takes at least one month to be cured and the complexity is high.

Prof Fazlul Haque, also the chairman of the department of Colorectal Surgery, had conducted Longo operation for over 700 patients since 2003.

While inaugurating the training programme at Samad Seminar Room at BSMMU, he said that nine patients would undergo operation during these two days and the surgery will continue from 8:00am to 2:30pm at the department of Colorectal Surgery. This programme will be repeated every three months.

Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Dr MA Tahir inaugurated the programme while Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Majid, Prof Atai Rabbi and Prof Shafikur Rahman were also present.



### Seminar

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a seminar on Telecom and ICT industry in Bangladesh: The past, the present and the future'. Venue: BEI conference room. Time: 9:30am.

#### Award giving

Berger Paints (BD) Ltd organises the Barger Award giving ceremony for the students of architecture of Buet. Venue: Buet auditorium. Time: 6:45pm.

Workshop The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) organises a workshop on 'Key performance indicator - a tool of

#### management'. Venue: ICMAB auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 6:30pm.

Seminar Oxfam International in cooperation with GMark Consulting Ltd will organise a seminar on 'Agribusiness in Bangladesh: Present status, pitfalls and prospects'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium.

Time: 9:30am.

Discussion Bangladesh Thalassaemia Samity will organise a discussion to mark the World Thalassaemia Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:30am.

### CTG PAY HIKE RIOT

# Operations at RMG units still uncertain

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

Commercial operations at the garment factories of Azim Group in the port city's Kalurghat BSCIC industrial area remained uncertain until yesterday evening.

General Manager of the group Anup Kumar Das told The Daily Star that the authorities were yet to take any decision over resuming operations at the factories until 6:30 pm.

"A meeting with the representatives of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is going on since afternoon and is yet to reach any decision over the matter," he said.

Munir Hossain, knitwear operator of one of the garment factories,

said yesterday was the weekly holi day of the factories and they will join their work today as the authority assured them of fulfilling their demands in a meeting on Tuesday.

Earlier, the agitating workers of three garments factories of Azim Group -- Orchid Sweater Ltd, Global Specialised Garments Ltd (unit-1) and Savar Sweater Ltd staged demonstrations demanding increase of their share of piece rate on each garment product and breakfast allowance.

They vandalised at least 50 vehicles, mugged commuters, looted shops and also damaged few windowpanes of the woven division office of the company by pelting brickbats from outside the boundary.

## Ex-BNP MP Giasuddin, 2 wives chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved charge sheet against former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin Ahmed, his two wives and son for concealing information and amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

ACC Assistant Director Mozahar Ali Sarker submitted the charge sheet against Giasuddin, whose name was on ACC's first list of graft suspects and who surrendered before a local Cognisance Court in Narayanganj on February 25.

The charge sheet mentioned that Giasuddin amassed wealth worth Tk 35.13 crore beyond his known sources of income and concealed the information about the wealth worth Tk 20.56 crore from the ACC.

The charge sheet also charged Giasuddin's first wife Reshma Begum, second wife Tahfiza Begum and son Mohammad Foysal with abetting him in acquiring the wealth through illegal means and concealing the wealth information. As Reshma, Tahfiza and Foysal

also recommended for issuing an arrest warrant against them. ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda filed the case in October last

are absconding, the charge sheet

Giasuddin submitted his wealth statement in February after the ACC had issued a notice on 50 corrupt suspects asking them to submit their wealth statement within 72 hours.

### Asian Inter Varsity Debate begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 15th All Asian Inter Varsity Debate Championship begins

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the competition at Hotel Sonargaon in the city. North South University is hosting

be participated by 450 participants from around 12 Asian countries. The competition will end on May 13. Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman will be the chief guest at the concluding ceremony at the Bangladesh-China

the six-day championship that wil

Friendship Conference Centre. The competition will be held in different venues, including North South University, St Joseph Higher Secondary School and College and United International University.

## LAWACHHARA ENVIRONMENT

# Chevron claims full compliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chevron in a statement yesterday claimed that it is in full compliance with the environment clearance certificate with its 3D seismic survey at Lawachhara Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar, says a press release.

Contrary to reports in some of the national dailies published on May 5, a statement of Chevron says they are is conducting work with the utmost care for the environment and regularly keeps Petrobangla and members of the monitoring team informed of ongoing seismic work at Lawachhara.

In the statement, Chevron officials said it was outside Chevron's jurisdiction to inform Petrobangla or ministry of environment of such a fire.

They further said, "Chevron, Petrobangla and deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar have each conducted separate investigations and the findings were consistent that the fire had no link at all with the seismic activities of Chevron and no seismic personnel were in the area where the fire incident took place on April 26. The claim that Chevron workers might have caused fire is unfounded."

The allegation that crew members are not properly trained is

baseless. Chevron places the utmost importance on safety and protecting the environment and all crew members working in the forest underwent a rigorous two-day safety and environmental awareness training programme. Safety meetings are also held every morning before work begins to ensure safety awareness at every step, the statement added.

Chevron is conducting a thorough investigation into claims that cracks have allegedly developed in walls of mud huts in the area. We take such claims seriously and will act accordingly.

Throughout the process including prior to the seismic work was started and while the Environmental Assessment Study was carried out, Chevron made every effort to consult key stake-

holders of Moulvibazar area. In addition, Chevron held several meetings in the area and several press conferences at local and national levels to facilitate sharing of information, the statement included.

Chevron expects to complete the seismic survey by the middle of this year safely and without making any long-term impact on the environment and the wildlife.



#### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 38.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet. The sun sets in the capital at 6:31pm today and rises at 5:19am

tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Humidityin Temperaturein City/Town percentage Celsius Morning Evening Min 26.4 71 70 35.5 Dhaka 76 26.0 33.0 Chittagong 58 24.9 36.0 Rajshahi 61 80 27.0 36.5 Khulna 67 27.0 34.8 Barisal 76 22.0 31.3 Sylhet 76 55 24.8 34.5 Cox's Bazar

### Duke of Gloucester arrives in city STAFF CORRESPONDENT

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Prince Richard, duke of Gloucester of the UK, yesterday arrived in the city on a four-day visit to Bangladesh particularly to Sidr-affected south-

ern region of the country. The Duke, who holds several military appointments and carries out official duties in the UK and overseas on behalf of The Queen, will also call on President Iajuddin Ahmed during his visit that will end on May 10.

Upon his arrival, the Prince accompanied by British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury visited the Department of Architecture of Brac University and had ideas of the architectural and structural patterns of houses and buildings of Bangladesh.

Prince Richard, who himself is an architect, took keen interest on the structures of houses built in the disaster-prone southern districts and the shelter centres.

Brac University Vice Chancellor Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, chairman of the Department of Architecture of the university Dr Fuad Hasan Mallik and officials of British High Commission and UK Department for International Development (DFID) were also present during the visit.

First cousin of The Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Gloucester's visit among other issues will focus on the UK's continued and wide-range commitments to long-term development in Bangladesh, particularly its contributions to disaster management and relief and reconstruction projects in Southern Bangladesh undertaken following the devastating cyclone Sidr last year, said a press release.

The Royal visit coming shortly after trips by three cabinet level ministers in just four months further underlines the new heights reached in strong bilateral relations between the UK and Bangladesh, it added.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome His Royal Highness. His personal visit demonstrates the importance UK attaches to peopleto-people links with Bangladesh; these links are bedrock of the friend ship between our countries," said British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

### Appeal for help



Kazi Bashirul Islam of Brahmanbaria has been suffering from kidney illness for last four years, says a press release. His both

kidneys have been damaged. individual but also an institution Bashirul is now under the treatment of Urology Professor Dr

Harun-or-Rashid, and having kidney dialysis. According to the doctors, he needs kidney transplant which

involves a huge amount of money. It is not possible for poor Bashirul to afford this expensive treatment and as such he has appealed to well-off section of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to Kazi Bashirul Islam, Savings Account No 2775, Sonali Bank, Nayabazar Branch, Mobile: 01912163555 (on request).

#### Kamrul Hasan Abir



four and a half years old, has been suffering from profound hearing loss problems since he was six month old, says a press release. He neither hears nor speaks.

Abir, a boy of

According to Surgeon A S Takar, Abir needs immediate cochlear implant surgery which involves a huge amount of money. This is a lengthy treatment and

it needs speech therapy and a yearlong follow-up after the sur-Moreover the treatment is not

available in the country. Abir's father Ali Anwar, an assis tant teacher of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, is not able to bear the cost of the treatment.

So he has made a fervent appeal to well-off people of the society for financial assistance for the treatment of his son. Contributions can be sent to Ali

Anwar, Savings Account No 02039898, Sonali Bank Ltd Vigarunnisa Noon School and College Branch, Dhaka.

### Oulkhawni



Mohammad Jashim Uddin, assistant gen eral manager of Aloo Refrigeration Co. Ltd. will be held tomorrow,

Qulkhawni of

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Alook Tower at 47/1 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Shawrani at Mohakhali in the city after Asr prayers.

Jashim passed away at Birdem Hospital on May 1 at the age of 45. He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

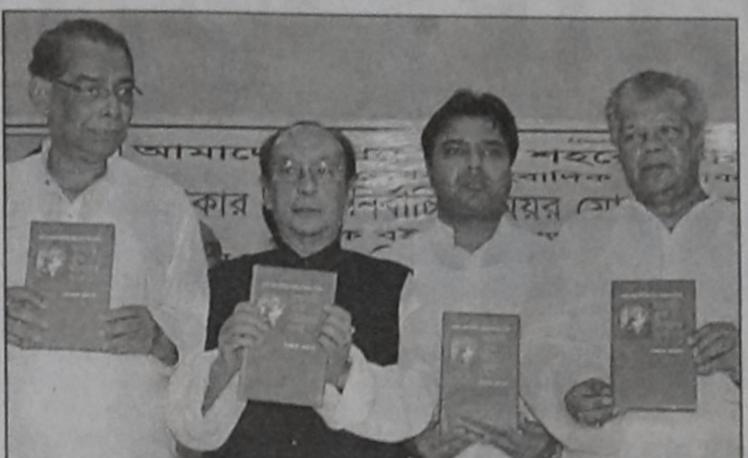


PHOTO: STAR

(From left) Awami League (AL) presidium member Suranjit Sengupta, acting President Zillur Rahman, Sayed Khokon and AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu hold copies of a book titled 'Dhakar Prothom Mayor Md Hanifer Sangrami Ek Jiboner Katha' at a publication ceremony at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

## PBCP men demand tolls from N'ganj RMG owners

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Tolls were demanded over cellphone from eight garment owners of Fatullah in the name of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) yesterday.

Four of them filed general diary (GD) with Fatullah Police Station in this connection seeking their security. Owner of Ruposhi Garments and Director of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Mohammad Suhrawardy in his GD

wise he will be killed. The man introduced himself as Abir Hasan, regional commander of PBCP, and asked him to talk to Ziaul Haque Zia, another leader of the party.

birth-anniversary programmes at

10:00am today at Osmani

Memorial Auditorium. The inau-

gural programme will be followed

Television, private TV channels and

radio stations will broadcast the

the chief adviser have given special

messages highlighting the colourful

life of the poet and his contributions

said, "Rabindranath is not only an

and his distinctive literature and

arts would always inspire Bengali-

speaking people to do creative

Fakhruddin said,

Shilpakala Academy will organ-

ise a cultural programme based on

"Rabindranath's songs and poems

had inspired people during the

country's Liberation War."

In his message, the president

to Bengali language and literature.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh

President Iajudddin Ahmed and

FROM PAGE 16

by a cultural function.

programme live.

work."

said a man called him at 9:15am

from the cell phone 01726-695790

demanding Tk 4 lakh in toll, other-

members of the party are in jail and they need Tk 40 lakh to free them, and for that they are demanding Tk 4 lakh from him. From the same cell phone, Tk 6

lakh was demanded from garment

Zia told him that around 30 to 40

owner Abdul Based, Tk 6.5 lakh from the owner of Fiber Tex Garment Sohel Nazrul, and Tk 4 lakh from SA Textile mills owner Ripon. Officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station said four businessmen have filed GD in this regard

looking into the matter. Meanwhile, Sheikh Rasel, managing director of Moon Star garments, was arrested yesterday in a cheque forgery case and for making dillydally in providing arrears of the workers of his factory in the

poet at the Jatiya Naityashala audi-

torium in the evening. Prominent

artistes will recite poems, dance

have been chalked out to mark the

day at Shilaidah in Kushtia, Patisar

in Naogaon and South Dighi in

Khulna--the three districts that

Local administrations across

Bangladesh missions abroad

As part of the national celebra-

The academy has also pub-

Tagore was a poet, visual artist,

playwright, novelist, and composer

whose works reshaped Bengali

literature and music in the late 19th

harbour the memories of

the country will also arrange

will also celebrate the day holding

tions, Bangla Academy will arrange

a programme on the poet on

lished a souvenir on the occasion.

Sunday in its seminar room.

programmes marking the day.

Besides, various programmes

and render Tagore's songs.

Rabindranath Tagore.

various programmes.

and police would take steps after

## Asia Regional Higher Edn Summit in Dhaka in Oct

Asia Regional Higher Education Summit will be held in the city in October with a view to expanding innovative approaches to teaching, research, technology transfer and business development in higher education.

higher education alliance.

### USAID decided to arrange the Asia Decision to

In separate statements, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, JSD Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri expressed their resentment over the decision and said without serving any show case notice such a punishment is undemocratic and a threat to the mass media.

Chhatra Union president and general secretary in a statement said university authorities should have been taken steps against him after proper investigate on the matter. They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision.

Chhatra Maitri leaders also demanded withdrawal of the decision and said the university authorities took the decision to serve the interests of a vested quarter.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day summit will begin on October 6 with a focus on

### suspend JNU student condemned DU CORRESPONDENT

Different student bodies yesterday condemned the decision of suspending the studentship of Khairul Hossain Raju, a student of Jagannath University, also a reporter of the daily Samakal, for three years.

Chhatra League leaders also demanded withdrawal of the decision.

#### Tagore's birth anniversary The film festival has been divided into four sessions. The first session will start at 2:00pm ending at 3:30pm and the next session will various creative works of the great and early 20th centuries. start at 4:00pm and end at 5:30pm. Born in 1861 at Jorasanko man-The sessions of the second day will sion in Kolkata, he was the younstart at 4:00pm and ends at 5:30pm

gest of thirteen surviving children and 6:00pm to 7:30pm. of Debendranath Tagore and Tickets of the shows will be Sarada Devi. available in front of the IBA audito-He became Asia's first Nobel rium, which will cost Tk 100 per laureate after winning the Nobel session, Tk 180 for two sessions, Tk Prize in literature for his book 250 for three sessions and Tk 300

for four sessions. Two songs from his canon are now the national anthems of FutureShorts is the co-arranger of Bangladesh and India -- Amar the programme. Sonar Bangla and Jana Gana Mana, respectively.

Gitanjali in 1913.

Tagore wrote novels, short stories, songs, dance-dramas, and essays on political and personal topics. Gitanjali (Song Offerings), Gora (Fair-Faced), and Ghare-Baire (The Home and the World) are among his best-known works.

His verse, short stories, and novels, which often exhibited rhythmic lyricism, colloquial language, meditative naturalism, and philosophical contemplation, received global acclaim.

# Election by year-end

FROM PAGE 1 polls will be held as per the

roadmap." The two other election commissioners---Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussainaccompanied

him at the meeting with Iajuddin. The polls chief told the president that they are confident of having a complete electoral roll by October since 83 percent of the voter registration is already done.

As per the electoral roadmap announced on July 15 last year, the voter list should be ready by October so the election could be held before the end of this year.

Names of 6.53 crore people have been placed on the electoral roll as of May 5. Earlier on February 27, the commission reached the halfway stage of voter listing by registering four crore people as electors. It means over one and a half crore have been listed as voters in the last

67 days. The CEC yesterday said they are looking to wrap up registration of seven crore voters by May 17, getting 88 percent of the job done. Then another one crore will be registered within June.

He, however, said the commission would take a few more days to come up with specific dates regarding the polls. As per EC's estimate, the num-

ber of voters this time will not exceed eight crore mark. It was 9.33 crore on the 2006 voter list, which was at the end scrapped for massive duplications and errors.

The EC has started publishing draft voter lists for many areas on completion of the field level task. It is now seeking complaints and claims from those registered or left out. Even the printing of final rolls for some areas is already underway.

The CEC said they have briefed Iajuddin about other preparations as well. He added that a team of experts

from the commission gave the president a PowerPoint presentation to show the way they have done the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies.

"The president is quite satisfied with our preparations for the parliamentary polls," Huda observed.

Later in the afternoon, an interministerial meeting was held at the EC Secretariat where the EC discussed with representatives of different ministries its proposals for electoral reforms.

The EC delegation's visit to the Bangabhaban, the official residence and workplace of the president, took place a day after the chief adviser met the president and discussed several crucial issues including the national election.

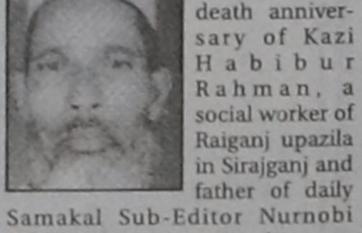
Oulkhwani



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Abdur Rashid, a noted educationalist and former registrar of Chittagong University, says

his village home at Chittagong.

#### Kazi Habibur Rahman



father of daily Siddik Swin, says a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at

Today is the 5th

upazila in Sirajganj after Zohr Relatives, friends and admirers tries' demands and budget disci-

have been requested to attend the programme.

#### Budget deficit to be 11pc The sources add that the gov- Annual Development Programme ernment prepared plans to meet (ADP), the World Bank assured to but that is not the end. We need to

continue giving incentives to farmers in coming Aush and Aman season for better production," Mujeri told The Daily Star. "So, this is not the right time to take such a decision [withdrawing

subsidies of petroleum products]

which can affect agricultural pro-

duction negatively.

"What we need to ensure is that there will be no leakage in the subsidy chain. It's for the poor and they should get it absolutely thus making their lives easy," Mujeri The original budget of the cur-

rent fiscal estimated a total deficit

of Tk 29,836 crore or 5.6 percent of the GDP, which included Tk 7,523 crore liabilities of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). But the revised estimate of the current fiscal budget showed that the deficit is increasing by Tk 3,237

crore and would reach Tk 33,073

crore, which is 6.2 percent of the

GDP, finance ministry sources say.

the budget shortfall and Tk 17,490 crore would be taken from the banking sector as loans in this purpose, while the original budget had estimated to take Tk 14,780 crore from the banks. Budget shortfall is regular as revenue income is lower than the

expenditure and the government takes domestic and foreign loans to meet the deficit. Revenue income target in the current fiscal year was Tk 57,300 crore and the revised budget shows

a strong revenue growth. The gov-

ernment has increased its revenue income by Tk 3,240 crore and set a target of Tk 60,540 crore. On the other hand, the government has curtailed the development budget by TK 4,000 crore and set it at Tk 22,500 crore from the original Tk 26,500 crore. The development budget was cut due to slow

pace of implementation amid price

hike of construction materials. In the revised Tk 22,500 crore pline," he added.

provide \$300 million (Tk 2,070 crore). "If the World Bank doesn't provide the loan, total budget deficit in the current fiscal may increase further," said a planning ministry official. Asked about the deficit increase

and cut of the development budget, a finance ministry official said, "We got additional demand of around Tk 16,000 crore from different ministries after formulation of the current fiscal budget." The of fuel, food and construction ties, he said.

despite a strong revenue growth

demand came following price hike materials as well as natural calami-He however said the finance ministry did not meet all the additional demands by ministries and Rameshorganti under Raiganj tried to continue discipline in the original budget. "Actually, we went | prayers. in between the lines of the minis-

