

**Interest + 50% bonus**

**Bonus Savings Account**

www.combank.net

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

**PHILIPS**

DVD Player

RSP: 4,250/-

Customer Service Department: 8853366-9, 01712-665463

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

## 6-MONTH REVIEW OF BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

# Big ministries spend less than half of allocation

**REJAUL KARIM BYRON**

Ministries of education, and primary and mass education have performed best in overall budget implementation in the first six months of the current fiscal year while the agriculture ministry is lagging far behind.

The finance ministry recently reviewed the status of budget implementation by 10 big ministries and divisions, which received 41.5 percent allocation of

the total budget layout. These ministries and divisions spent 35.3 percent of their total allocation in the first six months of FY2009-10.

This is the first time that the finance ministry has reviewed ministries' implementation of their budget allocation, which covers both Annual Development Programme (ADP) and revenue budget.

The education ministry spent Tk 3,840 crore--51.9 percent--of its total allocation of Tk 7,395 crore during July-December

2009, taking steps to distribute stipends and educational materials including textbooks in time.

The primary and mass education ministry spent Tk 3,008 crore (45.5 percent) during the period from its total allocation of Tk 6,611 crore.

The expenditure by the agriculture ministry has been the lowest as it spent just Tk 1,074 crore or 18 percent of its total allocation of Tk 5,965 crore. Ministry

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

SCORECARD	
<b>MINISTRIES</b>	
Education	51.9%
Primary & Mass Education	45.5%
Health & Family Welfare	33.5%
Water Resources	25.9%
Housing & Public Works	23.7%
Agriculture	18.0%
<b>DIVISIONS</b>	
Energy and Mineral Resources	70.9%
Local Government	39.4%
Roads and Railways	27.0%
Power	18.9%

# Overseas jobseekers to get smart card

Move to reduce harassment during, after immigration

**PORIMOL PALMA**

The government is introducing smart card, a tag with computer chip, for overseas jobseekers from tomorrow to ease the immigration process and help them more effectively while they are abroad.

The card will contain all the information furnished in the passport, a jobseeker's fingerprints and the name and licence number of the recruiting agency so that the authorities can identify all the parties involved in the migration process and take prompt actions when needed.

"With a smart card a migrant will not have to



fill up embarkation form at the airport. The form will be automatically furnished when the smart card is inserted in a card reader," said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Heart-rending scene at Hamim's home

Call for effective road safety law

**PORIMOL PALMA and MUKHLESUR RAHMAN**

Watching cartoon films and Spider-Man show was Hamim's favourite pastimes; he would plead with his father for a car he had set his heart on to get to school; he would remain awake until late night for his father's return; all these are now only memories to his shell-shocked parents.

Hamim was crushed to death under the wheels of a bus just in front of Willes Little Flower School as he was returning home from his school with his mother on Wednesday.

"Papa, would you buy me a car so that I can go to school by it?" Mohammad Motaleb quoted his son Hamim as

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Pedestrians are often seen jumping over the iron railing to cross a road showing utter disrespect to traffic laws and also risking their lives. This photo was taken near the New Market in the capital recently.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

# Reckless driving claims another kid's life in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another little girl was killed and an infant was severely injured in a hit and run road accident in the capital yesterday, just two days into the bus accident in the city that had killed kindergarten student Hamim Sheikh.

A garment factory worker was also fatally run over by a minibus at Sonargaon Hotel roundabout in the city the same day.

The deceased are Sumi Akhter, 7, son of Monjur Sarkar and Hasina Begum of Shaheenbag in Tejgaon, and Saiful Islam, 25, a boiler operator at a garment factory, Debonia Fashion, in Karwan Bazar.

Sumi's mother Hasina Begum, 24, and 14 month-old brother Hasan were also injured in the accident and taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Both sustained head injuries.

People including a traffic police constable who were near the scene of the hit and run said they heard a loud sound and then saw a woman and two children lying on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in front of Falcon Hall at Shaheenbagh while two automobiles -- a bus and a car -- were speeding away towards Farmgate around 1:15pm.

The nearby people rushed to the aid of the victims and found

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Teargas shell didn't hit Abubakar

DMP chief claims; JCD calls DU strike tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday refuted the allegation that Dhaka University student Abubakar Siddique died after being struck by a teargas shell.

Pro-BNP student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday called for a student strike at DU tomorrow protesting Siddique's death and pro-Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League's "anarchy" at educational institutions across the country.

The DMP commissioner, briefing reporters at his office yesterday, claimed that

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## COLLEGE ADMISSION NU to receive emails till 2pm today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for first-year admission seekers of Dhaka College and Suhrawardi College to send emails to the National University in order to get into their desired departments ends today at 2:00pm.

After verifying the emails, the National University authorities on Sunday will publish which student has been selected for which department and their admission procedure on www.nu.edu.bd and www.nuadmission.com. A National University press release said no emails would be entertained if it reaches after the deadline.

This is the second stage of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Khaleda to start district tours in mid-March

BNP plans revamping grassroots for anti-govt movement

**RAKIB HASNET SUMAN**

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will go on a countrywide organisational tour in mid-March to have her party gearing up for an anti-government movement.

Before that, central BNP leaders will have view-exchange meetings with the grassroots while visiting every district and upazila. Besides, six organising secretaries will seek to resolve internal conflicts in their divisions and submit reports.

In the meantime, party lawmakers will seek to play a strong role in parliament. Speaking on some select issues, they will try to mobilise public opinion against the government.

Earlier on Thursday, BNP, the main opposition in parliament, decided to return to the

House.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, its Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said, "We want to engage local intellectuals and professionals by taking their opinions during our meetings at the grassroots level."

He said they have already completed the reorganisation process and are now working to involve people in programmes that would later be turned into a movement against the government.

At least 10 view-exchange meetings with the grassroots will be held across six divisions. They begin with the one in Sylhet today.

The central leaders will try to gauge the rank and file's sentiment about plans to forge an anti-government movement on issues like

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## 2 children die in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two siblings were killed and three others of a family injured in a fire at Birampur village under sadar upazila of the district Thursday night.

The dead were identified as Rabby, 5, and Naima, 3, the son and the daughter of Abdur Rauf of the village.

Family sources said, while the children's mother Asma Begum was pouring kerosene into a burning lamp, the lamp exploded and instantly three of them caught fire.

Two other sons of Asma, Year Hossain, 12, and Sabbir Hossain, 10, came to their rescue but they also caught fire.

The fire left Rabby and Naima dead on the spot and the rest three injured.

# Indian SC stays limestone mining in Meghalaya

Lafarge cement plant in Chhatak to be affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian Supreme Court yesterday restrained the French cement giant Lafarge from carrying out mining of limestone in Meghalaya for its cement plant in Bangladesh saying mining cannot be allowed in the eco-fragile area.

The 255-million dollar Lafarge Surma Cement project at Chhatak, Sunamganj is wholly dependent on the limestones extracted from East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya. Limestone is transported from the Indian state to Bangladesh in a 17-km-long conveyor belt.

A special forest bench headed by Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan stayed the mining activities on the basis of a Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) report.

The report reads the company had been extracting minerals from the land in the forest area.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Six journos injured in attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six journalists were injured as local youths attacked them at Jamalkhan Road in the port city yesterday following a minor road accident.

The miscreants also damaged the motorbike of the Bengali daily Prothom Alo staff reporter Pranab Baul.

Police arrested three youths -- Taj Uddin, 32, his brother Russel, 30, and Sarwar, 32, -- in this connection.

Witnesses said a speedy private car knocked Pranab's motorbike which was parked in front of the bureau office of the newspaper at Jamalkhan Road at around 4.00pm.

Immediately after the incident Pranab and another reporter of The Daily Star, who was there in a nearby tea-stall,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## 7th Death Anniversary



Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)  
Death: 6th February, 2003

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu). We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

All Employees  
ABUL KHAIIR GROUP

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-mature departure has put us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishes to pray for him from the core of heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved members of the family