FROM PAGE 1

According to locals, the disaster happened as the hospital was being constructed on the site which was once a wetland recently filled up with garbage.

Fifty-year-old Mohammad Wahid, who was born here, said "The entire area was a 40-50 feet deep wetland. Various establishments were erected after it was filled up." Shafiqul Islam, an Ansar

member who was on duty at the place Friday night, said a tin-roofed house collapsed with a huge bang around 12:30am yesterday.

Locals said two other tinshed buildings crumbled and a concrete street, north to the construction site, subsided around 2:30am. While visiting the area,

Rajuk Chairman Mohammad Nurul Huda said the cave-in occurred due to faulty piling work. Replying to a query, he

said, "The construction was approved by Rajuk, but neither the owners nor the engineers followed our instructions."

"All the residents have been evacuated from the affected buildings as well as from those at risk of collapse," said Nurul Huda. "The victims must be compensated and punitive measures will be taken against the responsible persons and authorities."

Locals said the underconstruction hospital is owned by a physician, Prof Ali Zaher al-Amin. He could not be reached despite repeated attempts. Khaleda Yasmin, who

claimed to be a director of Impulse Medical College and Hospital, confirmed that Islamic Trade Consortium was constructing the building. Talking to The Daily Star,

ITCL Director Ashim K Goswami claimed his company is not responsible for the disaster as another one was assigned for the piling work. Asked, he claimed not to know its name.

The ITCL was building only the basement, he added.

Ashim, however, said they would find out the cause of the incident and also compensate the victims through the local lawmaker.

Mohammad Dipu, 22, son of the owner of one of the affected five-storey buildings, said, "We built the building with all we had. If it collapses, we will have to stay under the open sky."

There are many establishments to the north of the tilted building.

Dipu's father Abdul Mannan Patwari said, "The construction started six months ago. They dug deep into the ground. We opposed but nobody listened."

M Abdus Salam, fire service and civil defence direcor (administration and audit), told reporters, "Gas pipelines to several houses were damaged due to the incident. Residents of the area have been requested not to ignite stoves for now."

CASE FILED

Meanwhile, Rajuk officials filed a case against the authorities of the underconstruction hospital and its engineers last night while a three-member committee was formed to probe the incident.

Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda said the case was filed under Real Estate Development and Management Act 2010.

The probe committee headed by engineer Abdul Mannan, member of Rajuk (planning and management), has been asked to submit its report in seven days.

#### Rab to get

FROM PAGE 1

operation, maintenance and safety of the choppers, added the official.

The purchase committee meeting will also consider a scheme for building 360 flats, each measuring 1336 square feet, for government officials in the capital's Mirpur area, stated sources in housing and public works ministry.

The ministry will also propose to construct three buildings, each having 15 storeys, in Dohar upazila of Dhaka for the middle class people. The three units will have 168 flats with a floor area of 1298 square feet each.

## Construction | ADP implementation

FROM PAGE 1

As per the revised plan, in the last two months of the current fiscal year the government will spend Tk 7,110 crore every month.

As the fiscal year is drawing nearer to an end, the expenditure is getting faster and with it government's bank borrowing is increasing. In the first six months of the current fiscal year the government's bank borrowing was very small. After 10 months the government has borrowed Tk 11,380 crore from the banking system.

In this year's budget, the government set a target to borrow around Tk 15,000 crore but it may exceed this target.

A Bangladesh Bank official said if the government borrows steadily every month as per its target it does not have any negative impact but if it borrows a huge amount in a small period, it destabilises the money market.

A high official of the planning ministry said after presenting the national budget every year the finance minister in the post-budget press conference urges secretaries to start implementing the ADP from the beginning of the financial year.

The ministries are told to make the purchasing plan ahead of the start of the fiscal year. But the situation does not change, planning ministry officials said. Most of the projects of the ADP are on-

According to planning ministry information, in the last fiscal year the total ADP utilisation was Tk 25,917 crore. In the last two months the expenditure was Tk 9,216 crore. In the last month the expenditure was Tk 6,395 crore.

Planning ministry officials said on many occasions the ministries do not actually spend the money rather show it spent. They show expenditures against different departments and divisions of various ministries. As a result, in the last month a high expenditure is shown.

Even on the last working day of the fiscal year, Tk 2,000 crore to Tk 3,000 crore was released from the government account in Bangladesh Bank.

Zaid Bakht said spending 40 percent of the allocations in 2 months would not only waste public money but also have detrimental effect on the quality of the completed projects.

Zaid Bakht was a member of the public expenditure review commission. Drawing from experience, he said there were instances where cheques were issued to show that the money was spent but in fact it was not and no work had been done.

The government takes up challenging ADPs with a large

Limon's plight, would

deprive Limon of the oppor-

At the end of a two-day

long politburo meeting

yesterday, the party issued a

press statement that also

said the defence adviser's

remarks would not only

influence the home minis-

try's on-going investigation

into the Limon case but also

jeopardise freedom of the

statement described the

remarks on Limon as "un-

fortunate" and demanded

an immediate end to all

extra-judicial killings. All

conscious citizens have

protested and condemned

such killings by Rab and

other law enforcement

its election manifesto had

clearly promised to the

nation that extra-judicial

killings would be stopped.

The public appreciate Rab's

role in fighting militancy but

it is remarkable that none of

the militants died at the

hands of Rab or other law

enforcers. They were brought to justice in line

Limon did not even get

that chance of a fair trial.

"What we know about how

Limon was shot in the leg is

gruesome and goes against

with the law of the land.

Ruling Awami League in

bodies, it said.

The party in the press

press to expose the truth.

FROM PAGE 1

tunity of justice.

His remark

number of projects but the ministries concerned do not have the capability or the efficiency to implement them, which creates these

> problems. A planning ministry official said hurried expenditure at the end of the year results in the government's original plan for ADP failing its goal. Even though ministries fail to implement the ADP fully at the end of the year, they make demand for more allocation. Implementation

Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED) in its report prepared in March mentioned several problems in ADP implemention.

The ministries take up more projects than the resources allocated to them under the medium-term budgetary framework. As the number of projects increases, both the tenure and expenditure go up. In the current fiscal year,

the number of total projects was 916, in the revised ADP allocation was cut by more than Tk 3,000 crore but the number of projects increased to 1,185. The planning ministry official said this is a yearly phenomenon. According to the IMED

report, the projects the government takes every year cannot be completed for the lack of necessary resources. In the current fiscal year, 287 projects were scheduled for completion but in the revised budget the number was reduced. Project implementation is

delayed due to various reasons including change in the project design, inefficiency and failure to release funds.

#### Fatal mobile

FROM PAGE 20

(SI) Ohidul Haque said quoting Babu Miah, a gateman of the nearby rail gate and also a witness of the incident that the girl was talking over cell phone while walking on the rail track. Babu and others shouted

to draw attention of the girl that a train was fast approaching but to no avail. Sadia fell under the wheels of Kamalapur bound Brahmaputra Express and her body was split into two.

Unidentified persons informed Sadia's father at his Belkuchi village over cell phone that she was dead and her body was laying at the Wireless rail gate area.

Witnesses said the mobile phone and a diary which she was carrying went missing.

Sadia's relatives came to DMC morgue and identified the body yesterday after-

Sadia used to live with a female doctor who is her relative at Kalabagan area and used to tutor the doctor's children.

The doctor said Sadia left the house at 9:00am saying that she was going to attend Open University class.

all norms and ethics."

The most surprising thing

is that when the director

general of Rab said Limon

was a victim of circum-

stances, the defence adviser

claimed Limon and his

father are associates of noto-

rious criminal Jomaddar,

accused in the charge sheet

and the case was transferred

to a special tribunal. "We can

assume that all these are

happening on instructions

college student Limon

Hossain of Chhaturia in

Jhalakathi got shot in the leg

by Rab personnel who later

filed two cases accusing him

of possessing arms and

obstructing law enforcers in

their duty. His leg had to be

Workers' Party is of the opin-

ion that the steps taken

against Limon and the

defence adviser's state-

ments are intended to hide

the truth. The stance of the

defence adviser will tarnish

the image of the govern-

demanded removal of all

conflicting clauses from the

four principles of the origi-

nal constitution as dictated

by the Supreme Court.

The politburo also

The politburo of the

amputated.

On March 23, 16-year-old

of someone from the top."

Moreover, Limon was

says the press statement.

### Dark energy

FROM PAGE 20 energy results.

Two papers by an international team of researchers have been accepted for publication in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society jour-

Both of these techniques confirmed the existence of dark energy and the acceleration in the expansion of the Universe.

The concept of dark energy was first invoked in the late 1990s by studying the brightness of distant supernovas -- exploding stars.

#### **EINSTEINWAS RIGHT**

To explain why the expansion of the Universe was speeding up, astronomers had to either rewrite Albert Einstein's theory of gravity or accept that the cosmos was filled with a novel type of energy. "The action of dark

energy is as if you threw a ball up in the air, and it kept speeding upward into the sky faster and faster," said co-author Chris Blake of the Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. "The results tell us that

dark energy is a cosmological constant, as Einstein proposed. If gravity were the culprit, then we wouldn't be seeing these constant effects of dark energy throughout time."

#### 2 robbers **FROM PAGE 20**

information stopped a microbus carrying a gang of robbers around 9:00pm when the bandits were going to Bazar area of Musapur union from Chardiarar Balua. They could catch two of

the robbers while the others managed to flee. The mob beat the two up leaving them dead on the spot. One of the deceased was identified as Jashim Uddin

while the identity of another could not be known immediately. Jashim hails from Gochchhagram and is an

accused in a number of robbery cases, said Officerin-Charge Monjurul Haque of Companyganj Police Station. The bodies were sent to

Noakhali General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### Bus operators

FROM PAGE 1

long queues for buses. The situation was the same in other places where drives were continuing.

Even the two magistrates of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, who have been conducting the drives, had to give up fining or confiscating more than one bus of each operator considering commuters' suffering.

"Whenever we start our drive, the bus operators seem to know about that and keep their buses from operating on that very route for hours," said Magistrate Md Tofael Islam.

"What can we do if a bus stops operating," he sounded helpless.

If the operators were convinced of the fare prior to the announcement of the government rates, it would have been easier to monitor and passengers would not have suffered so much, said the magistrate.

He said large-scale drives would soon start to make the bus operators charge passengers exact fares. Meanwhile, the traffic police would have to be more active to help deal with the matter.

Another magistrate SM Rezaul Karim, who conducted drive at Kakoli area, said a comprehensive fare chart would be provided to bus operators today. They will be asked to paste the charts inside buses and at all bus stops so that people could know exactly how much they are to pay to reach their destinations.

"We will strengthen vigilance as to whether the bus operators are charging fares according to the chart," he said adding that more police forces are needed to do it.

The magistrate said sometimes police stations do not provide adequate force to conduct the drives in time.

# Israel defiant

**FROM PAGE 20** 

This proposal has been a key demand of the Palestinians in the negotiations.

But speaking in the Oval Office after their meeting, Netanyahu flatly rejected this proposal, saying Israel wanted "a peace that will be genuine". "We both agree that a

peace based on illusions will crash eventually on the rocks of Middle Eastern reality, and that the only peace that will endure is one that is based on reality, on unshakeable facts.' 'DEMOGRAPHIC

#### CHANGES'

Israel was "prepared to make generous compromises for peace", he said, but could not go back to the 1967 borders "because these lines are indefensible". He said the old borders

did not take into account the "demographic changes that

Before finalising the

portfolios Mamata held a

meeting with senior party

leaders late into the night

at the state secretariat in

Kolkata. The portfolios

were announced to the

five more of its representa-

tives in the cabinet while

Trinamool Congress will

pick up another cabinet

member. The six will take

new cabinet is the same as

that of the previous Left

Front government, though

Mamata earlier hinted for a

said she had to take care of

diverse interest groups,

castes, and religious com-

munities in order to give a

broad representative look

secretary general of

Federation of Indian

Chambers of Commerce

and Industry Amit Mitra

got the portfolio of finance.

Partha Chatterjee was

given the charge of the

ministries of commerce

Mamata's close aide

Economist and former

On that note Mamata

The total strength of the

oath at a later date.

'small' cabinet.

to the cabinet.

Congress is yet to name

media early yesterday.

FROM PAGE 20

reforms and power.

have taken place over the last 44 years".

An estimated 5,00,000 Israelis now live in settlements built in the Palestinian West Bank, which lies outside those borders.

The settlements are illegal under international law, although Israel disputes this. Obama said there were

obviously "some differences" in the "precise formulations and language" used by Israel and the US, but that this "happens between friends". He did not bring up the

joint conference with Netanyahu. But he said Palestinians faced "tough choices" fol-

matter of the borders in his

lowing the recent reconciliation deal between Fatah, which runs the West Bank, and Hamas, which governs Gaza and still denies Israel's

and industries, public

enterprises, industrial

reconstruction, parlia-

mentary affairs and infor-

president of Trinamool

Congress, received charge

of PWD and transport

portfolio while former

bureaucrat Manish Gupta,

who defeated Buddhadev

Bhattacharjee, the former

chief minister, in Jadavpur

constituency in South

Kolkata, received charge of

the development and plan-

Subrata Bakshi, state

mation technology.

Mamata keeps

right to exist.

Obama said true peace could only occur if Israel was allowed to defend itself against threats.

The BBC's Paul Adams in Washington says that while notion of a peace agreement based on 1967 lines is not news, Obama has clearly angered Netanyahu by formally adopting it. Netanyahu has come

under increasing pressure as world figures and organisations, including American's partners in the Middle East Peace Quartet, EU, UN and Russia, lined up to back Obama's position. Arab League chief, Amr

Moussa, also called on President Obama to remain committed to the plan.

But in the absence of a viable peace process, it is unclear what will come of US-Israel talks, says our correspondent.

got the disaster manage-

ment, fire and emergency

services and civil defence

mer Maoist leader, was

Purnendu Basu, a for-

ministry.

# while Javed Ahmed Khan

of Barkal Police Station. Troops from Suvalang Army Camp in Barkal upazila cordoned off the area soon

Masood-ul-Hasan said. Shantideb Chakma, UPDF district coordinator of Rangamati, said army personnel did not let anyone enter the area.

to comment.

terday.

house on Friday midnight and opened fire on the UPDF men while they were having breakfast at about 9:40am. UPDF activists often

the morning, Ripon said.

#### Adviser Imam

her claim," he told a press conference at the AL president's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi.

BNP chairperson in a recent meeting in London had alleged that the decision of bringing AL to power was taken at a secret meeting among the chief adviser of the last caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed, the then army chief Moeen U Ahmed and Imam in Cox's Bazar, days before the 2008 polls, said the former

Terming Khaleda's comment baseless, imaginary and ill-motivated, Imam insisted he had not been to Cox's Bazar in 2008, never

withdrawn immediately. BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they will resist if the government tries to amend the constitution alone. He was talking to reporters at Sirajganj on his

While addressing a human chain in the city, Zainul Abdin Farroque said they will return to parliament only when the government accepts their demand of holding a mid-term election.

police administration's sincerity towards going digital and added that much parliament in June 2010 and returned on March 15 this year after missing 74 sittings.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee (Bac) of parliament headed by Speaker Abdul Hamid will sit in the parliament at 3:00pm, an hour before the budget session, to fix the duration and other activities of the

Apart from passing the budget for the next fiscal year, this session is likely to witness a bill proposing some major changes to the constitution.

#### 4 shot dead

FROM PAGE 1 Rangamati, said armed cad-

res of the PCJSS were responsible for the attack. However, Sajib Chakma

assistant publicity secretary of PCJSS central committee, said, "None of our members are involved in any murder or violence. It's their [UPDF's] internal conflict." The UPDF leaders said

their central committee member Animesh Chakma, 38, and UPDF members Purno Bhusan Chakma alias Nabadip, 40, Pulak Jibon Chakma alias Bibek, 32, and Sukkra Sen alias Prabin were killed in the attack.

The UPDF has called a road and waterway blockade in Rangamati tomorrow to protest the killings. Locals said some UPDF men gathered in the house of

Arun Kumar Chakma at Naraichhari village at around 9:40am. Armed members of PCJSS fired at them while they were taking breakfast. Four UPDF

Arun and his family members escaped unharmed but their house was burnt down said Sub-Inspector Iddris Ali

after the incident, SP

When contacted, the camp commander declined

stayed at Arun's house beside the Kaptai Lake to attend a meeting scheduled for yes-He said some armed cad-

## **FROM PAGE 20**

even in five years before that. He also complained the

BNP chief is making such statements from the pain of being defeated in the last parliamentary elections. The administrative affairs

holding mid-term polls. Imam urged Khaleda to join the parliament session and help a parliamentary

AL leaders Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin and Mrinal Kanti Das were present at the press conference.

#### 2 pirates

**FROM PAGE 20** 

Sensing their presence around 11:30am, the pirates fired targeting the law enforcers who retaliated triggering a gunfight, told Yakub Ali Khan, Coast Guard's petty officer, also a member of the team, to The

traded in the hour-long battle, Yakub added. Sources said, there are

#### made the labour minister, Jyotipriya Mallick, a senior party leader, got the food and civil supplies department, Haider Aziz Safwi, a former police officer,

Malay Ghatak is the new Banerjee's close aide

charge of the department of municipal affairs and urban development, while Sabitri Mitra got the department of women and child development and social welfare. Manas Bhuiya, presi-

Retired judge of Calcutta textiles while Abu Hena received charge of the departments of fisheries charge of animal resources food processing industries development portfolio and horticulture.

the police." A GD is usually filed for

filed electronically every

Ghosh, a Khilgaon resident. The software engineer

filling out an elaborate form with required information. Everything went well. He received an identification number for collecting a copy

station concerned. Ten days later he received a call from his local police station.

tion instead," said Anirban. "So here I am to file a GD that could have been taken

clunky and a flop among the citizens. Speaking on anonymously, a top home ministry official blamed lack of promotion and the slow online

tronic diaries to get sorted and sent to the respective

police stations, from where the complainants can collect their copies of GD,

"Conversely, you can file your GD and get a copy in five minutes if you go to a police station," commented a duty officer at Dhanmondi Police Station who refused to be named.

Police officers say the

police sources inform.

website is not user-friendly and does a poor job of instructing the citizens on how to fill out the diary properly. It creates problems for both the police and the complainants. In October, Tejgaon

police received a GD where

the description of the inci-

dent read: "Dear Sir, Please save me". The complainant, an alleged stalking victim named Shifa, mentioned the name of the stalker. But she did not provide any contact

The lack of userfriendliness in the website reflects poor efforts and planning from the police, experts observe. They questioned the

details or any other informa-

of the corruption in police would go away with digitalisation. This could be a reason for the lack of interest in implementing many of their digitalisation initiatives,

said a retired police official

Home Minister Sahara Khatun during inauguration of the online GD system dubbed it as a part of fulfilling the government's electoral pledge of a "Digital Bangladesh".

requesting anonymity.

If the online general diary

ation and inland water transport portfolio. law minister while Rajpal Singh was chosen for tourism ministry. Firhad Hakim was given

received charge of cooper-

Chowdhury received charge of mass education extension and library serdent of West Bengal state vices department while Congress party, received Bratya Basu was given the charge of irrigation and waterways, micro and small scale enterprises and

# Online GD fails

FROM PAGE 1 just there without helping anyone, neither people nor

legal or security matters that do not warrant police cases. Dhaka police stations receive over 35 handwritten GDs a day, compared to some five GDs or so that are

month, insiders say. The statistics came as little surprise to Anirban

tried to file an online GD for his lost office identity card in December. After losing his ID card, Anirban went home, fired up his computer and logged into the police website to file

the GD, which involved of the GD from the police

"They said I did not provide enough information, so I need to visit the station and give a handwritten applica-

care of ten days ago had I come here in the first place,' he said, adding, "The website is a total waste of time. Police officers admit the new system is unattractive,

process, which ironically is more time consuming than the handwritten process. It takes days for the elec-

system is a reflection of the government fulfilling its dream of "Digital Bangladesh", the country

ning department. Former Kolkata mayor and Trinamool Congress vice-president Subrata Mukherjee is minister of Public Health Engineering, Shyamal Mandal, the minister of Sundarbans affairs and Madan Mitra is the new sports minister. Abdul Karim

charge of the portfolio of higher education. High Court Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury received

> has big things to worry about, Dhaka residents

# observe.

JS goes FROM PAGE 1 Parliamentary Party will organise a press conference at the Jatiya Sangsad Media

formally announce its deci sion over joining parliament," he said. BNP senior leader and a standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday at a meeting said they will join the session if the four cases against party Chairperson Khaleda Zia are

Centre tomorrow [today] and

way to Thakurgaon.

In June 2009, the opposition lawmakers started boycotting the House. After remaining absent for 64 consecutive sittings they returned on February 11 2011. They again boycotted

session, said sources in parliament secretariat.

logging in the Sundarbans.

## activists died on the spot, said Barkal police.

Ripon Chakma, a 24-yearold resident of Naraichhari said six UPDF men came to the village a few days ago and

res of PCJSS surrounded the

gathered in Arun's house in

people if she fails to prove

bureaucrat.

adviser categorically rejected BNP's demand for

body amend the constitu-

Daily Star. The gunfight left two of pirates dead on the spot. At least 150 bullets were

eight to ten pirates' groups who are operating at the Sundarbans. Among them, the Julfikar group, Raju group and Shohagh group are more active in the Bagerhat belt. They are responsible for illegal poaching of tigers, deers and