



SUBSIDY HEADACHE
Muhith hints at price adjustment of fuel, power and fertiliser
PAGE B1

INDIAN PRESIDENCY
After Manmohan-Sonia meet, Pranab gets one step closer
PAGE 7

MARIA MAKES HISTORY
Sharapova wins the French Open to become the tenth woman to bag a career Grand Slam
PAGE 16

Govt down in debt

Bulk from the budget to be spent on interest payment

SAJJADUR RAHMAN and SOHEL PARVEZ
The huge interest burden will squeeze the government's scope for spending on productive purposes, such as infrastructure development and energy projects, say experts. The government paid 12.3 percent of the outgoing year's budgetary allocation for interest payment, which is estimated at 12.2 percent of the Tk 1.9 trillion budget for the coming fiscal year. Only the public service sector will absorb a higher sum than that of interest payments in the coming

fiscal year. The amount of interest payments will be even greater than the aggregate allocations for fuel and energy, social security and welfare sectors. Economists have sounded a warning about the mounting pressure of interest payments on public expenditure. They say this reduces the government's scope for investing in other sectors and its ability to respond to sudden shocks such as natural disasters or a global economic turmoil. Hossain Zillur Rahman, economist and former adviser to a care-

taker government, said rising pressure of interest payments may create a "vicious circle" and affect economic growth. "It cuts the government's ability to invest in productive sectors." If a big portion of the country's incremental revenue income is spent on interest payments, availability of funds in other sectors dwindles, said Rahman. He said Latin American countries had faced problems in the '80s due to burden of high interest payments on their exchequers. Policymakers
SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

No smoking at restaurants
Declare owners
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Restaurants across the country have been declared smoke-free by their owners. Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association has taken the decision with a
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

'Expert fix' for bureaucracy
Govt plans to appoint specialists at top level to rev up administration
HASAN JAHID TUSHER
The government has decided in principle to appoint experts at the top level of the civil bureaucracy in a move to bring more dynamism in the administration, government policymakers say. And it plans to make a law providing for such appointments. A task force would be formed shortly to draft the proposed law that might be titled "Gono Karmochari Ain". Official sources said the public
SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Wasfia Nazreen, the second Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest, gestures as she arrives at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday, ending her triumphant expedition. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'V' is for women
Wasfia returns home, dedicates her Everest feat to freedom of women
PANKAJ KARMAKAR
Everest conqueror Wasfia Nazreen has dedicated her remarkable feat to the country's women. "We have achieved freedom 41 years ago, but our women are yet to enjoy freedom. I would like to dedicate the success to those women," Wasfia told newsmen yesterday at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on her return home from Kathmandu. She arrived in the capital at 1:30pm on a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Family members, friends, sponsors, campaign associates, officials of women and children affairs

SUPPL BUDGET JS discussion starts today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Jatiya Sangsad opens discussion on supplementary budget for current fiscal year today amid absence of BNP-led opposition lawmakers. The House will pass it tomorrow after holding a one-day discussion, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid told The Daily Star yesterday. The legislators will start discussion on the proposed national budget for FY 2012-13 on Tuesday, he added. Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Thursday
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



JUSTICE MANIK REMARKS Speaker's ruling to resolve crisis
Hopes law minister
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The law minister yesterday hoped that the prevailing divergence between the legislature and the judiciary would be resolved through the speaker's ruling in parliament, and that there was no need to refer this matter to the Supreme Judicial Council. "The speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad is a very competent, prudent and scholarly man. I feel that he will issue a ruling to bring the issue involving parliament and the Supreme Court to an end," Shafique Ahmed told reporters after attending a workshop in the capital. The disagreement between the
SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

DIATRIBES AGAINST PROF SAYEED One lawmaker says sorry
RASHIDUL HASAN
Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujib-ul-Haque Chunnus has expressed regret for the remark he made on Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed in parliament on June 3. "I phoned Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed on Tuesday as I came to know that he didn't say anything bad on MPs. I said I'm sorry for my speech in parliament. It was a misunderstanding." "We should not have made such comments on sir [Prof Sayeed] without
SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Good knight SUPER SAVER OFFER

BUY 2 REFILLS AND GET 1 CORDLESS MACHINE FREE

SAVE TK. 50

For 60 nights refill only

Goorey

Your time. Your place. Your Moods.

MOODS CONDOMS

allnight, ULTRATHIN, SCENTED, dotted, choco, ribbed

Find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/moodscondoms
www.moodsplanet.com

For trade enquiry-Renata Ltd. Bangladesh (www.renata-ltd.com)