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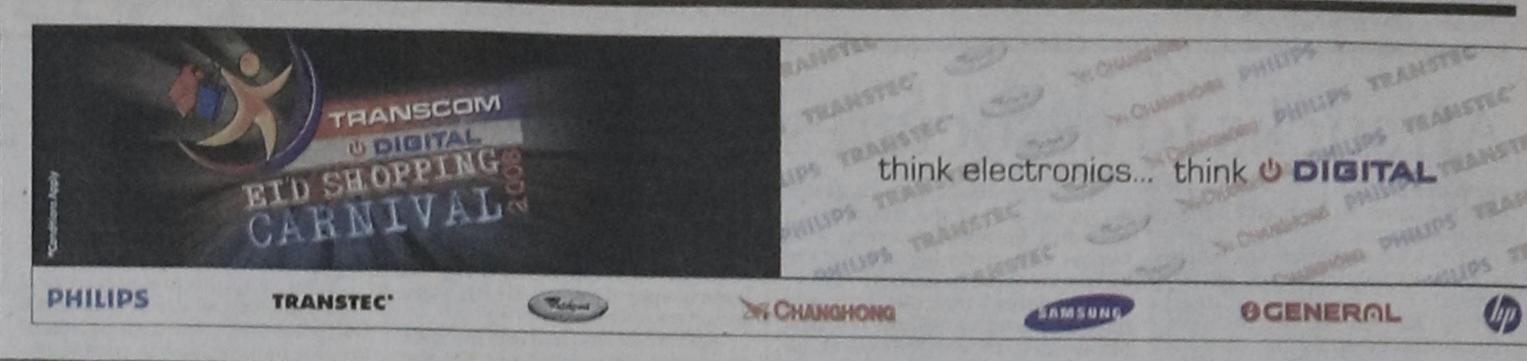
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SHILPAKALA ACADEMY PROJECT

loggerheads

Ministry, academy at

includes completion of the second

phase construction of Rajbari

Acrobatic Centre in Rajbari, and

construction of a high rise admin-

istration building on the premises

Soon after the issuance of the

work order in favour of the

contactor on October 22, 2006,

reports that there had been irregu-

larities in awarding the contract.

several newspapers published

Following the news reports, the

erstwhile cultural adviser to the

caretaker government first sus-

pended the project temporarily and

later on July 18, 2007 the succeeding

cultural adviser, Ayub Quadri,

of BSA headquarters in the capital.

#### Ashraful fears attack on Hasina on her return

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday asked the caretaker government to ensure special security for party chief Sheikh Hasina ahead of parliamentary polls.

He apprehended that Hasina, on her return from the US, and Awami League followers might come under 'militant and other terrorist attacks' at the time of the

to reporters after a meeting with | developing countries. French Ambassador Charley Causseret at his NAM apartment. Current political and economic

issues as well as election and security matters were discussed

# IMF, WB meeting overshadowed by financial crisis

AFP, Washington

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were meeting Sunday as the most severe financial crisis since the 1930s threatens to Ashraful said this while talking undo recent progress made by uncertain global conditions as the forgotten" even though their

With donor aid programs under pressure as the crisis bites into budgets, the World Bank estimates that up to 100 hundred million people are at risk of falling into SEE PAGE 15 COL 6 | poverty because of higher food and

energy prices.

"The large surge in food and energy prices -- and an associated rise in inflation -- present major policy challenges for most countries, further compounded by the for the IMF and World Bank Development Committee said.

The Development Committee advises the World Bank and IMF on how to promote economic development in developing countries,

many of whom feel neglected as a crisis they had no responsibility for threatens them directly.

Sierra Leone Finance Minister David Carew said the plight of the poor countries has been "largely financial crisis unfolds," an update recent development gains are at risk as the crisis bites.

> "We expect to see a reduction of inflows to Africa and that is of concern to us," Carew said, citing likely falls in remittances, foreign

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

#### Govt can now buy electricity from small power plants

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday amended the policy guidelines for Small Power Plants (SPP) enabling the private producers to sell their surplus output to government's power distribution companies, as the country runs short of electric-

A meeting of the council with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair approved a proposal placed by the Power Division for amending the policy guidelines for

A provision that the government may purchase power from SPP was inserted in the SPP policy guide-

The meeting also approved the SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### Nat'l grid gets more gas from Fenchuganj

Moulvibazar

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) yesterday started supplying additional 20 million cubic feet of gas per day from Fenchuganj Gas Field of

This is expected to help industries that depend on gas. Bangladesh consumes around 1,750 million cubic feet of gas per day and the total demand for gas is

According to a Bapex source, the

during the preparations, he added.

The Fenchuganj Gas Field is at Bhatera under Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar. Bapex started work at the Fenchuganj Gas Field in 1985.

ordering an investigation and punitive actions against persons

involved in the alleged corruption. The investigation subsequently found that to bypass an approval from the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP) the original project cost of Tk 26.22 crore had been corrected by the project director, lowering it to Tk 24.99 crore just before issuing the work order, and Tk 1.15 crore of that was paid to the contractor on

According to government rules any government project costing Tk 25 crore or more must be approved by CCGP.

the same day.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Hiron, 30, with one arm since birth, works on a street at Sayedabad in Dhaka. He has been working as a labourer for 13 years, supporting his family of four with Tk 250-300 he earns a day.

### Ershad expects 60 seats from grand alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said his party will seek to share 60 seats with Awami League-led grand electoral alliance in the upcoming parliament poll.

"Today, Jatiya Party is very much united where Ershad is not a minus, Ershad is very much a plus. We are ready for the election," he declared.

"The previous grand alliance SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

#### HASINA'S BAIL SC defers hearing for two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday deferred for two weeks the hearing on a petition filed by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina seeking a stay on the High Court (HC) order rejecting her bail prayer in an extortion case.

She had also appealed for bail in the same case.

Following a time prayer moved SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

The Tk 24.99 crore project scrapped the project altogether

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

ERSHAD KAMOL

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

(BSA) and the Ministry of Cultural

Affairs have locked horns over

implementation of the second

Last week, mid-level ministry

phase of a project titled Training on

officials led by a joint secretary

along with the contractor who is

also the consultant of the contro-

versial project went to the office of

the BSA secretary and scolded him

for reporting to the ministry gross

irregularities in awarding the con-

tract to Sunrise Engineers, alleged

Fine and Performing Arts.

the BSA authorities.

Moulvibazar to the national grid.

even higher.

national grid will get the additional gas from well-2 of Fenchuganj Gas Field. Experts say that this is

another success of the native gas exploration company.

MA Mutalib, general manager (production) of Bapex, told The Daily Star over telephone yesterday that the additional gas is being supplied from the third zone of well-2. Successful firing of the gas well and other preparatory work were completed Thursday. No technical problems appeared

He said the supply was delayed due to Eid and Puja vacations.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

#### Subrata Bain arrested in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dreaded criminal Trimoti Subrata Bain was arrested in Kolkata, India. A top official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) last night said Indian Special Force

**Prayer Timing** October 13 Azan Jamaat 5-20 4-45 1-15 12-45 4-15 4-30 Maghrib 5-45

7-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Missile strikes from US drones kill 5 in Pakistan

Daraz, a security official told AFP,

attacks from the Pakistan govern-

ment, though the military said they

explosion incident in Miranshah,"

chief military spokesman Major

could see three drones overhead as

they sifted through the remains of

the destroyed compound search-

Residents on Sunday said they

Some tribesmen fired at the

Pakistan has been protesting

drones, but there was no damage to

recent missile strikes blamed on

US forces based in Afghanistan and

has termed them a violation of its

of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the

media. They said reports from local

informants so far said none of the

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

General Athar Abbas told AFP.

ing for further casualties.

the aircraft or any return fire.

There was no reaction to the

"We have reports about an

giving no further details.

were aware of the strike.

Pak forces gun down 14 more militants

AP, AFP, Dera Ismail Khan

The latest in a barrage of suspected US missile strikes in Pakistan's northwest killed five people, but none were believed to be foreign al-Qaeda fighters, officials said yester-

Two unmanned drones were seen above the town of Miran Shah in the North Waziristan tribal region minutes before missiles hit a house near a matchbox factory Saturday, two intelligence officials

US pilotless spy planes on Sunday flew over a Pakistani tribal town bordering Afghanistan just hours after a missile strike killed at least five people, residents said.

Two missiles from suspected US drones overnight struck a compound just outside Miranshah, the sovereignty. main town in the restive North Waziristan district, which is seen as a safe haven for al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

The targeted compound was the residence of Taliban militant Omar

#### Unforeseen situation to arise if polls disrupted

Predicts EC Sakhawat

UNB, Dhaka

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain yesterday said an unforeseen situation would evolve in the country if the upcoming polls were disrupted. "Those for whom the election

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

#### 22 lakh banned sedatives seized in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday seized 22 lakh banned sedative and addictive tablets raiding a house at Sabujbagh in the capital last night. Police estimated the value of the

### Fierce race row rocks White House race

AFP, Chicago

A war of words with racial undertones marked the White House race Sunday after civil rights icon John Lewis accused Republican John McCain of sowing "hatred" against Barack Obama.

McCain, who has been trying to attacks on Obama. tamp down abuse of the Democratic nominee at his campaign events, reacted furiously, lashing out against Lewis, who only a few weeks ago he described as one of the Americans he most admired.

The latest political turbulence came just over three weeks before the November 4 election, with Obama building a steady lead over McCain on the national level, and on the state-by-state electoral map.

It also overshadowed another controversy, the legislative probe finding in Alaska that state governor and Republican vice presiden-SEE PAGE 15 COL 7 | tial nominee Sarah Palin had

abused her power in a feud with her

ex-brother in law. Congressman Lewis, revered as one of the key figures in the 20th century US civil rights movement, ignited a political firestorm by issuing a statement about McCain's recent searing character

"As public figures with the power to influence and persuade, Senator McCain and Governor Palin are playing with fire, and if they are not careful, that fire will consume us all," Lewis said.

Republicans "are sowing the seeds of hatred and division, and there is no need for this hostility in our political discourse."

He also appeared to suggest attacks on Obama were reminiscent of late segregationist Alabama governor and presidential candidate George Wallace, whose rhetoric in 1963 was blamed for a church bombing in Birmingham, SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



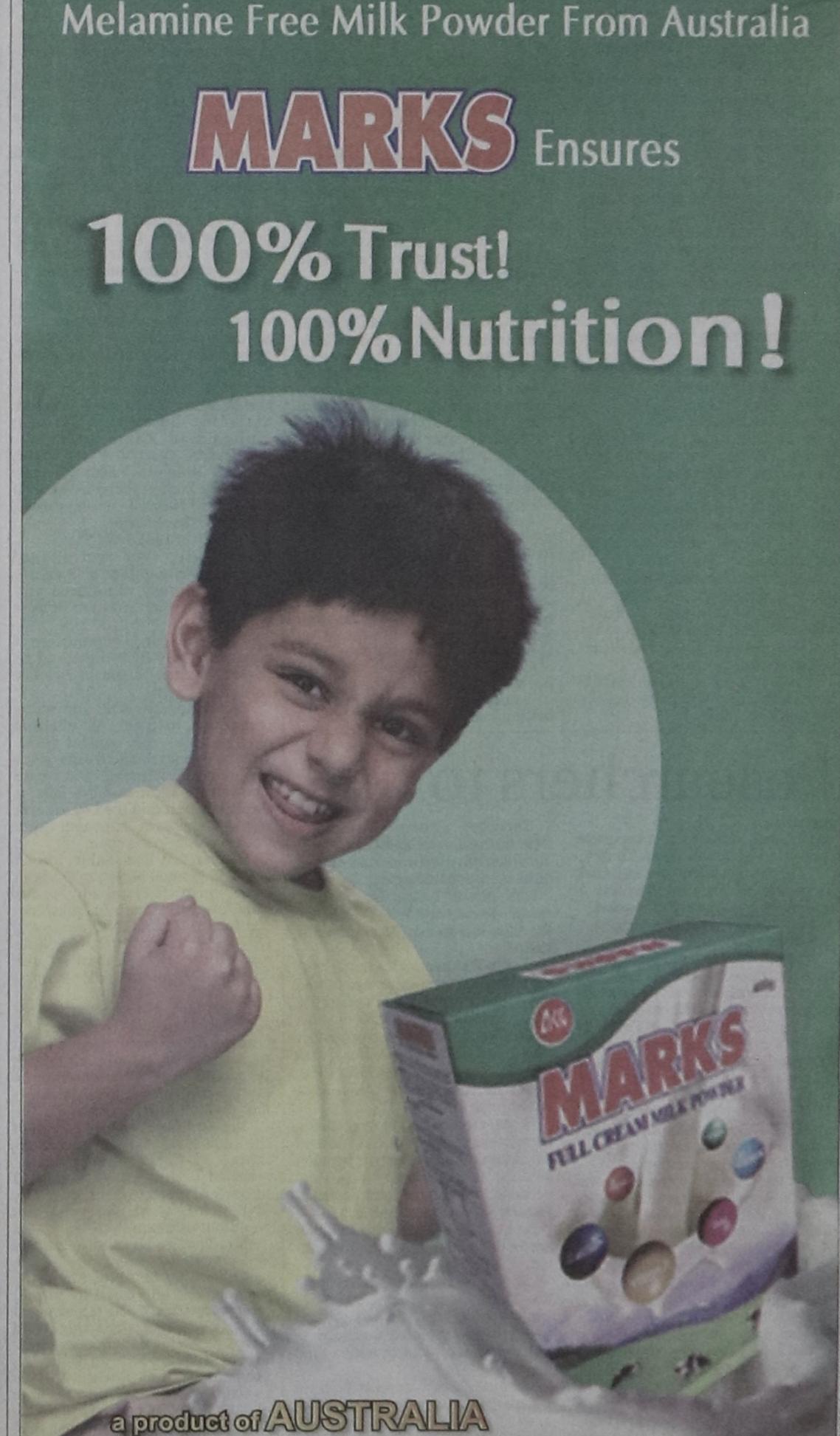
Crying mother of Saikat hugs her son's body at Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday. Saikat drowned in a pond at Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University. Story on page 3. PHOTO: STAR

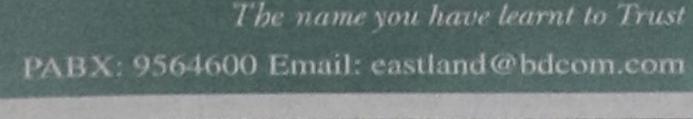
#### Govt suspends use of Miltefosine

Decides to get WHO report on the medicine for Kala-azar STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a row over the effectiveness of Miltefosine capsules and several deaths, the government has decided to halt treatment of Kalaazar (Visceral leishmaniasis) with Miltefosine. Amphotericin B or injection of

Sodium Antimony Gluconet (SAG) would be used in treating Kala-azar instead of Miltofosine, said Health Secretary AMM Nasir Uddin at a press conference at Bangladesh SEE PAGE 15 COL 6





EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhak