

**AT GRAMMYS**

The 53rd version of the music awards saw stars pay tribute to their mentors

PAGE 10-11

**WHAT NOW?**

Zahurul Alam reflects on the military's role in Egypt's politics

PAGE 15

**END OF EL PHENOMENON**

Brazilian legend Ronaldo quits all forms of football

PAGE 19



# Import relaxed for essentials

*Govt acts further to rein back price spike*

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government has started taking a number of steps to cut the prices of essentials including edible oil, rice and sugar.

The steps include reducing import VAT (value added tax) on edible oil from 15 percent to 10 percent, increasing rice and wheat stocks through import and loan facility for importing essentials, a secretary, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star.

A high profile emergency meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

approved the measures at her secretariat office yesterday.

The meeting agreed to cut the cost of refining sugar and relax terms and conditions of Public Procurement Regulations (PPR) for quick import of daily essentials.

The two-hour meeting also decided to toughen the Anti-Hoarding Act and monitoring on hoarding.

Asked about the meeting output, the finance minister told reporters that the prime minister would soon brief the media about the resolutions. He declined to say any further.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 7



Agitated stockmarket investors vandalised this building in front of Dhaka Stock Exchange in the capital after the bourse suffered another price plunge yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Fake ticket makers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rapid Action Battalion mobile court yesterday busted a printing press producing fake tickets of World Cup cricket and arrested four persons in this connection at Nanda Kumar Datta road in the capital's Chawkbazar area.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

## Fanfare hits fever pitch

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka is now base camp for four international cricket teams: Pakistan, England, Canada and, of course, Bangladesh. Bangladesh, Pakistan and England all held practice sessions at different times at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 60 people were detained in Motijheel area of the capital yesterday during violent clashes between retail investors and police after the stockmarket saw a massive fall for the fifth day in a row.

"Around 50 to 60 people were detained on charge of their involve-

ment in street vandalism in the area," said Harun-Or-Rashid, assistant sub-inspector and duty officer of Motijheel Police Station.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday directed Home Minister Sahara Khatun to identify those involved in street vandalism over the stockmarket plunge.

"Where do demonstrators get sticks and effigies to burn just only five minutes into the opening of trading?" the premier asked.

She also directed the home minister to pick them and learn how much they invested in the capital market.

A senior BNP leader was blamed

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4



Aga Khan spoke for Arabic as solution

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Ratan Lal Chakrabarty, like Badruddin Umar, has done truly commendable scholarly work on the language movement, per courtesy of course of Bangla Academy. His extremely informative Bhasha Andoloner Dolipotro (Documents of

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Ekushey Padak goes to 13

Bss, Dhaka

Thirteen distinguished personalities have been nominated for Ekushey Padak-2011 for their special contributions to the society and the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will hand over the prestigious award to the persons in Osmani

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

# Social Cause

The Board of Directors of Dutch-Bangla Bank has decided to offer dividend for the bank's foreign and public shareholders for the year 2010. They have also decided not to offer dividend for the local sponsoring shareholders.

Instead, the local sponsoring shareholders' dividend proceeds will be used to create the largest scholarship program in Bangladesh. Starting now, the amount will increase annually and within 5 years this gesture will culminate to

**Taka 102 crore (1.02 billion) worth of scholarships awarded **every year** to 30,000 recipients** in need of financial aid – 80% of total scholarships for recipients in rural areas and 50% for female recipients.

**Dutch-Bangla Bank**  
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER

Grab your own Samsung GALAXY Tab!

With every new connection, enjoy Tk. 300 free talk time, 500 free SMS and 45 MB free internet!

Buy a Grameenphone Prepaid connection in this special month. Participate in the quiz to win any of the following gifts:

- 20 Samsung Galaxy Tab
- 10,000 Branded Jersey
- 1000 Handset
- 149 Connection price
- 200 Modem

Stay Close | grameenphone

► To register for the quiz and win gift, SMS Reg to 7070 (No charge applicable) ► Be one of the lucky winners by answering 2 simple questions which will be sent to your mobile from 24th February to 31st March, 2011 ► All quiz participants will get 1 month's free subscription to Missed Call Alert Service, which will be available by the next 2 weeks ► To get quiz question, SMS Q to 2003 (Tk. 2 charge applicable) ► To get the previously unanswered question, SMS LQ to 2003 ► To view your score at any time, SMS Score to 2003 ► After activation of the connection, recharge a minimum of Tk. 50 in each installment (30 days) for the next 6 months to get Tk. 300 free talk time disbursed in 6 equal monthly installments ► This bonus offer applies to all new Grameenphone Prepaid, Ekota, Business Solutions Prepaid and djuice connections ► Tk. 20 preloaded talk time with every new connection and Tk. 50 with every Public Phone and Palli Phone connection ► New Public Phone and Palli Phone connection comes with free Internet and other gifts except Tk. 300 free talk time and 500 free SMS ► Enjoy 500 free SMS (Valid for 30 days) within 72 hours of activation of the new connection. These SMS can be sent to any Grameenphone and djuice numbers ► Each Tk. 50 free talk time is valid for 7 days ► Free talk time can be used to call any Grameenphone number (Except 49 paisa/min, offer) from 9am to 5pm ► Enjoy 15 MB free Internet (Valid for 15 days) within 72 hours of activation of the new connection. Remaining 30 MB will be disbursed in the following 6 months in equal monthly installments of 5 MB each (Valid for 7 days) ► 15% VAT applicable on all charges ► Offer valid till 31st March, 2011 ► Anyone associated with Grameenphone authority will not be able to participate in the quiz competition ► All decisions by Grameenphone regarding the quiz competition will be treated as final ► Date and venue of receiving the gifts will be communicated to the winners once the offer is over ► For details, please visit: [www.grameenphone.com](http://www.grameenphone.com)