16-day Ctg festival

FROM PAGE 1

The announcement was made at a city hotel in the presence of distinguished guests. The logo of the festival was also unveiled on the occasion.

The key themes of the event will cover Chittagong's history, culture and tradition; contemporary lifestyle, food and entertainment; business; and civic and environmental issues.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, said the daily had initiated the event to project Chittagong in its true spirit before the nation.

Everything in the country happens around the capital Dhaka, which he thought was not the right way to lead a country to prosperity.

The country's development would not gain its expected pace if Chittagong was not developed, he said. Through this festival, he pointed out, the heritage of the port city would be publicised throughout the country time, he observed. so that people could know more about it and thus about the country.

The event will also give a direction about how the potentials of Chittagong could be used in the best possible way; how the obstacles to Chittagong's success would be removed; and how the doors of prosperity would be unveiled, mentioned the

A former adviser of a caretaker government, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, said Bangladesh would be developed if every part of it was developed.

He insisted that though

the first to inform anybody

about the murder of his

"I couldn't believe it,"

Nurunnahar Mirza, mother

of Runi, told reporters and

others crowding at the

58/A/2 West Rajabazar flat's

fourth floor, after hearing of

the killing of the journalist

opened the door," she said,

wailing. Nurunnahar lives in

a house at Indira Road, 500-

600 yards off her daughter's

residence, a six-storey build-

Friday, Nurunnahar

dropped Megh at the West

Rajabazar house. The grand-

son calls her 'Amma' as she

brought him up due to the

busy profession of her

Both Sagor and Runi were

broadcast journalists but

they started their career as

newspersons with the print

media. Runi, who was a

senior reporter of ATN

Bangla, and Sagor, news

editor of Massranga televi-

sion, also worked for

German Bangla radio

Germany in May last year

and admitted their only

child Megh in an English

medium school on Indira

telling stories such two

people were at their flat

Friday night and ate rice

with eggs. Megh also told us

he had seen those two at a

picnic he had attended,"

Nawshad Alam Rajon, the

eldest brother of Runi and an

employee of Rahimafrooz,

told The Daily Star yesterday

they reached the crime

scene, Nawzesh Alam

Independent University

and the youngest maternal

uncle of Megh, told The

Daily Star, "We came to

know about the incident

from Megh." Rimon went

around 7:30am," said

Nawshad. "So my mother

rushed there. The door was

locked form inside and

Visiting Megh's room,

attached to his parents',

these correspondents found

a black wallet, believed to be

Megh opened the door."

"Megh phoned his granny

there after his mother.

know which picnic the boy present.

Rimon, a BBA student of trauma soon.

afternoon.

calm and quiet."

was talking about.

"Initially, he [Megh] was

They returned from

Deustche Welle.

daughter and son-in-law.

"I rushed here. Megh

parents.

couple.

Chittagong was a neglected city, its citizens should go ahead with their talents and potentials instead of complaining about the negli-

The Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof Anwarul Azim Arif, in his remarks said Chittagong was the focal point to increase the competitiveness of Bangladesh. He urged all to know more about the port

Chittagong has always been odommo (indomitable), said MA Malek, editor of The Daily Azadi.

Both Malek and Taslim Uddin Chowdhury, editor of The Daily Purbokone, thanked The Daily Star for taking the initiative.

Chittagong is unable to retain its talents in the city as they are Dhaka-bound, pointed out Abul Momen, resident editor of Daily ProthomAlo.

Although the city is older than Dhaka and Kolkata, it has been neglected for a long

Salahuddin Kashem Khan, managing director of AK Khan Group, said the port city had a history of 1,400 years. Quoting the renowned explorer Ibn Battuta, he said Chittagong is a sleeping princess. The President of

Chattagram Samity, Rezaul Hoque Moshtaque, said the demand for developing Chittagong was not from a regional point of view, but for the overall development of others. the country. Prof Shyamal Kanti Biswas,

Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, said Chittagong had a lot of

Megh now a lonely cloud

Sagar's, a handbag of Runi

and some of her cosmetics

on the bed. It seemed

Neither the police nor

relatives wanted to disclose

Megh's current location.

These correspondents,

however, went to see the kid

at one of his relative's yester-

closing the location of Megh,

relatives allowed The Daily

Star journalists to take a

picture of a traumatised and

Around 7:30pm on to be named, said they were firm that sharp weapons

"We are not sure if he

thrown up a few times and

[Megh] can realise what has

happened to his life," said

nursery class at William

Carey International School,

went on a study tour

arranged by the school on

7:00pm from Ashulia and all

the students went home

within 30 minutes," said

Samir Baidya, vice-principal

As Megh said the two

persons he saw in their

house at the night of the

gruesome killing were at a

"picnic", investigators

rushed to the school to know

who else had been allowed

on the study tour apart from

confirmed that only stu-

dents, parents, school teach-

ers and staff had taken part

in the study tour. Megh

attended with his maternal

study tour to check whether

The investigators also

The school teachers say

and classmates would help

Megh to recover from

lent kid," Linda Curie,

Megh's class teacher, said

are looking for answers to

how the killers entered and

left the house through an

eight by 14 inches window

with iron grill in the kitchen,

said a police officer request-

the balcony where the iron

grills are broken. Observing

the kitchen it seemed some-

body boiled a pack of noo-

The kitchen is attached to

Meanwhile, law enforcers

"He is a perfect and excel-

But the vice principal

students and parents.

grandmother.

about the boy.

ing anonymity.

"Later, Megh became collected pictures of the

The Daily Star could not any other outsiders were

Asked what they found as association with teachers

"We all came back around

On condition of not dis-

day afternoon.

lonely Megh.

was silent.

Friday.

of the school.

another relative.

bed the previous night.

nobody had slept on that floor.

talents and potentials. The expected development of the country could be achieved through utilising those, he

The first vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, demanded the opening of an office of the shipping ministry in Chittagong as part of decentralisation.

He hoped the festival would play a vital role in the branding of Chittagong.

M Nasir Uddin, managing director of Pacific Jeans, said China's economy had grown rapidly over the past few years, which was possible due to the growth of its coastal and port areas.

Eminent scientist Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, Awami League lawmaker MA Latif, president (in-charge) of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Mahbubul Alam, former CCCI president Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, Vice-chancellor of East Delta University Prof Dr Sikander Khan, Prof Dr Mainul Islam of Chittagong University, principal of Sunshine Grammar School and College Safia Gazi Rahman, Chittagong Club president SM Abu Tayeb, managing director of Grey Advertising Gauchhul Alam Shaon and artiste Abdul Gafur Hali were present, among

Shahriar Shahid, manager, business development and marketing of The Daily Star made a PowerPoint presentation of Odommo Chattagram on the occasion.

dles at night as an empty

Also, there were two pots

half full of water on the gas

burner while an egg had

been left untouched near

saw when the crimes took

place. But those who spoke

to him in the morning say

the kid saw in the house

some persons with firearms

in their hands and scuffling

All the marks on the bod-

knife was found from inside

Sagor's body and police

recovered blood stained

machetes from the crime

Megh's statement about

at their house, however, is a

vital clue as to what the

investigators are trying to

The victim along with one of

his friends parked his car in

front of a roadside restau-

rant on Gulshan Avenue

Two policemen in the

meantime, riding a motor-

bike, reached there and

Strongly protesting their

behaviour, Rakib requested

the cops to treat them gently.

It infuriated the law enforc-

ers further and they started

in a patrol team over their

After reaching the spot,

the patrol team also

swooped on the duo. Later

they were taken to Gulshan

They were, however, freed

Contacted, Mohammad

Shah Alam, officer-in-

charge of the station, said

two sub-inspectors were

closed yesterday in this

they had detained Rakib for

driving a racing car at high

tion of beating up Rakib.

The OC denied the allega-

He, however, claimed

walkie-talkie.

Police Station.

around 9:00pm.

connection.

speed.

beating up the two.

addressed them as "Tui."

around 6:00pm on Friday.

Tajuddin's

It's not clear what Megh

the burner.

with his father.

A relative, preferring not ies of Runi and Sagor con-

scene.

unearth.

Megh, a student of the the presence of two people

worried as the child had were used in the killing. A

Six govt websites hacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of hackers, claiming to be Indians, has attacked websites of five ministries yesterday.

The ministries are communications, youth and sports, primary and mass education, education and posts and telecommunications.

The site of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has also been hacked.

However, the telecoms ministry's site was restored in the afternoon.

The sites had gone black and the hackers wrote, "Hacked by Love the Risk, Amal Landhe, Lnx Root, Silent Killer." In the hacked pages,

between two eyes resembling Indian flags, the hackers wrote, "We have an EYE on vou". The name of another

hacker group, Indian Cyber Army, was also displayed in the pages. In the page of TCB, the hackers wrote, "No one Can

Stop Us, Hacked Saadi and Hax.r00t". The Daily Star could not

reach officials of any ministry for comment.

Bangladeshi **FROM PAGE 20**

profusely after the beating.

Fazlul Haque, commander of 26 Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion, Benapole check post, said BSF men beat Halima and left her in near senseless state yesterday afternoon at Petrapole opposite to the check post.

Local people later took her to a Benapole clinic.

They alleged that Halima was near the Bangladesh-India railway line close to Benapole check post when a team of Petrapole BSF patrol noodle packet and testing team chased and caught her. salt were lying on the kitchen

The Indians dragged her deep into their territory and beat her, leaving her bruised and bleeding.

Assuming that she had died of torture they left her at a secluded place in Petrapole, said locals.

Journo killed

FROM PAGE 20 the capital.

Police said a speeding BRTC bus rammed the couple's motorcycle from behind near an over bridge around 7:30pm, leaving Haider dead on the spot and his wife critically injured.

The injured was admitted to the Sadar hospital. Police sent Haidar's body to the morgue of the same hospital.

Iran

FROM PAGE 20

captured in December in front of the president's stage, and hosted on the stage the Hamas prime minister of Gaza.

Hamas "will never recognise Israel," Gaza leader Ismail Haniya told the crowd just before Ahmadinejad spoke.

His remarks were likely to complicate efforts to form with rival party Fatah a Palestinian unity government in the face of strong opposition from the Jewish state, which views Hamas as a terrorist organisation armed by Iran.

Ahmadinejad gave no details about the "important nuclear projects" about to

After knowing of the be made public. identity of Rakib, a police-However, the UN nuclear man said, "You are the watchdog, the International nephew of Sohel Taj. Okay, Atomic Energy Agency you will be given such a (IAEA), has already said Iran lesson that you will never is enriching uranium to 20 forget it," Simin Hossain percent -- a level signifi-Rimi quoted her son as saycantly closer to militarygrade 90 percent purity -- at At one stage, police called a mountain bunker near the

> Ahmadinejad used his speech to again question the veracity of the Jewish Holocaust, which he has in the past dimissed as a "myth".

Shiite shrine city of Qoms.

He claimed the United States and the West had created "a story called the Holocaust" to create the Israeli state as part of a plan

"to dominate the world". But, he said, "the Iranian nation with courage and wisdom smashed this idol to

free the people of the West (of its hold)." Iran denies Israel's right to exist and has said it will

of moaning and asked the security guard to see what was going on. "I came to back any group trying to put an end to the Jewish state. know about the murder after

Journalist couple killed

FROM PAGE 1

old Mahir Sarowar Megh, was in the flat when the twin murders were committed sometime between 2:00am and 5:00am yesterday.

Sagar suffered 28 stab wounds and Runi five before they breathed their last, doctors at Dhaka Medical College morgue said after autopsies on their bodies. The two and their son had

been residing in the flat, on the fourth floor of a fivestorey building, for only a few months. Around 7:30am, Megh

called his grandmother Nurunnahar Mirza (Runi's mother) from Runi's mobile phone and gave her the shocking news. Nurunnahar, who lives

nearby, said, "I rushed to the flat and found Sagar and Runi murdered in their bedroom." It was Megh who opened

the door when she rang the bell. A student in nursery class, he could not say anything specific as to how his parents had been killed or who had committed the Hamida Sultana Ananda,

who lives in a neighbouring flat, quoting Megh said some guests had dinner at the flat on Friday. She said she had heard Megh tell his grandmother that those who killed his parents had stayed in the house and also had dinner that night. Sources say that a few

people staying in the couple's home on a late Friday night was not unusual. It could not be confirmed, though, as to how and when the killers had got in or out of the flat. Relatives, colleagues,

senor journalists, police, members of intelligence agencies and politicians rushed to the small flat as soon as news of the murders hit TV screens in the morning. Many colleagues of Sagar and Runi could not hold back their tears. Police detained two secu-

rity guards and the caretaker of the building --- Palash Rudra Paul, Humayun Kabir and Abu Taher. They also seized three mobile phones of the couple, police said. Members of the Detective

Branch of police also picked up Runi's brothers--Nawsher Alam and Nawzesh Alam around 2:15pm but they were freed by 4:30pm.

Mahbubor Rahman, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (DB-South), said police were yet to ascertain the reason behind the murders or identify the killers.

It could not be confirmed whether the killers had left with any valuables from the house. A visit to the flat revealed clothes scattered on the couple's bed. The room was found virtually ransacked. The iron grill of the kitchen window was missing a bar but the hole did not appear large enough for an average person to get in or out.

Before being detained by police, security guard Palash, who was on duty between 10:00pm Friday and 6:00am yesterday, told The Daily Star that Nur-un-Nobi, president of the building committee, had informed him over the intercom that he heard moaning sounds. Nur-un-Nobi asked him to see what was going on.

"I went out of the building and I also heard the sounds of crying coming from a flat upstairs," he said. He could not ascertain, though, which flat it was. "I informed him [Nur-un-Nobi] about the matter just before the azan for Fazr prayers," Palash said, adding that he had no clue that the couple had been murdered. He said Sagar had

returned home around 2:00am. His office car did not see anyone entering or going out of the building after 2:00am.

building shows that one Toufiq went to Sagar and Runi's flat at 4:52pm Friday but there is no record of his leaving.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nur-un-Nobi, who lives in Sagar's hands were tied at the back with a scarf and his legs the flat below Sagar and Runi's, said he heard sounds

were bound with another The morgue sources suspect that three types of knives

for the TV rounds by visiting www.champs21.com and playing the online version of



Nawzesh and Nawsher, brothers of Meherun Runi, come out of the Rajabazar apartment of their PHOTO: sister and head for the Detective Branch office.

Runi's mother came to the house," he said.

However, Rafiqul Islam, who owns a neighbouring building and whose flat is just four feet away from the couple's flat, said he was awake until 2:00am yesterday and again woke up for Tahajjud prayers around 4:30am but he did not hear any sounds. Home Minister Shahara

Khatun, BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker, Chief Executive Officer of Maasranga Television Syed Fahim Munaim, Prime Minister's Special Assistant Mahbubul Haque Shakil and Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Benajir Ahmed visited the flat. Several hundred journalists thronged the spot.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia have expressed their shock at the murder of Sagar and Runi.

Shahara Khatun said she had given instructions to the law enforcement agencies to arrest the killers within 48

BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul been saying repeatedly that the country is turning into a slaughter ground gradually. This brutal killing again proves there is no law and order and rule of law in the country."

Law enforcers and intelligence personnel from Criminal Investigation Department (CID), DB and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) swiftly made their way to the scene of the crime. Autopsies on Sagar and

Runi were conducted at Dhaka Medical College morgue around 1:00pm. The couple were buried later at Azimpur graveyard after four namaz-e-janazas. No case had been lodged

in this connection till the filing of this report at 10:30pm.

THEBRUTALITY The killers stabbed Sagar 28

times. According to morgue sources, six were in his chest, two in the abdomen, three in the throat, 15 in the back and one on a thigh.

During autopsy, a small knife (which had roughly a four-inch blade) was found jammed in the right side of his chest. Almost the whole of the blade was stuck in his body. This stab penetrated Sagar's lungs deeply, according to morgue sources, who added that the knife did not have its handle.

They noted that all the stabs in Sagar's body were dropped him off. He said he very much straight and some of the stabs penetrated his lungs and liver. The stabs in the throat partially cut his The visitor's register of the oesophagus (the passage down which food moves between the throat and the stomach) but left his carotid arteries (which supply blood to the head) intact.

The sources also said

make the cut can still qualify were used in the attack on the game.

two-and-half inches while the width of the others was around two inches and one The killers made two close

Sagar. The width of some

stabs was found to be around

stabs in Meherun Runi's abdomen. They also stabbed her under the eyebrows, said the morgue sources. Sohel Mahmud, Lecturer of the Forensic Department

of Dhaka Medical College, conducted the autopsies. He told reporters that i appeared to him that the killers were "unprofessional" "If the killers were professional, they would not have made so many stabs," he commented.

COUPLE LAID TO ETERNAL REST

Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi were laid to eternal rest at Azimpur graveyard last evening after four namaz-ejanazas.

The first one was held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity premises in Segunbagicha at noon. The bodies were then taken to Maasranga Television office premises, the last workplace of Sarowar and to ATN Bangla at Karwanbazar.

The last janaza was held at their own residence at Nawabpur in Old Dhaka.

Information Minister Islam Alamgir said, "We've Abul Kalam Azad, special adviser to a caretaker government M Tamim, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Awami League presidium member Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj, among others, attended the namaz-ejanazas.

Runi's qulkhani will be held on Tuesday after Asr prayers at her uncle's residence at 45, Old Boubazar of Panthapath, while Sarowar's qulkhani will be on Wednesday after Asr prayers at Boro Mosque of Ray Shaheb Bazar in Old Dhaka.

Monipur **FROM PAGE 20**

remained after the second round, most making mistakes in rushing through their words. Only four students remained -- three girls and a

boy -- after the third round. With two more students eligible to qualify for the TV rounds, the competition really picked up as the three remaining students got their words right for three consecutive tie-breaker rounds before the two remaining winners came through in Salwa Siddique Juthi and Saleh Ibtesam of class IX.

"I was very surprised at how well the event was organised as well as its magnitude." said a visibly-elated Nafisa, who had no previous experience in seeing Spelling Bees.

"I think I can go far in this competition. I'll work as hard as possible and give it my best shot," said a determined Saleh, who had seen Spelling Bee before and had also practised hard before the competition started.

Students who did not

Myanmar frees monk held for questioning

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar officials have freed a leading dissident Buddhist monk after a brief detention, his monastery said yesterday, following a call from the United States for his immediate release.

and released that night, less than a month after he was freed from a jail term for his leading role in mass antigovernment protests in 2007. He was one of hundreds of political prisoners released in

January, cutting short a 68year jail term imposed for his key role in the 2007 "Saffron Revolution", which was brutally crushed by the formerjunta. Since he was freed, Gambira has breached regu-

lations by breaking into monasteries closed by the government after the mass monk-led demonstrations, a government official told AFP Friday on condition of anonymity.

BCL factions FROM PAGE 1

ensued as up to 30 members of Dr Javed faction attacked Main Hostel at around 1:00am and ransacked at least 35 rooms. As the news spread, rival Dr Ataul Karim faction reiterated by vandalising around 20 rooms at Alauddin Hostel. At one stage, both the

factions equipped with rods and sticks attacked each other in front of the Main Hostel's gate leaving 10 injured. At around 3:00am

Kotwali police raided the hostels and college premises and detained 53 BCL activists. However, they were all released around noon after a request from the principal, said Officerin-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Salahuddin Khan. Dr Javed is now a central

committee leader of BCL students' associate body of ruling Awami League. Dr Ataul was a leader of BCL SSMC unit. Both passed from the college several years ago and also completed their internship.

As there is no committee in the SSMC unit for the last seven years, Dr Javed and Dr Ataul had long-standing rivalry over control of the hostels, tender of the college and hospital and Leo and Sandhani clubs, stu-

dents say. In Dhaka Dental College, supporters of BCL college unit president Sayeed Masud Johnny and secretary Shafiul Haq Shafi

clashed on the campus. Around 10 supporters from both factions suffered injuries during the clash when the feuding group members attacked each others with iron rods and

sticks. Witnesses say some 20 supports of Shafiul faction swooped on as many supporters of Sayeed group in front of the office of the college principal around

9:30am leading to the clash. OC of Kafrul police Abdul Latif said police dispersed the BCL activists and took control of the campus soon after the clash. He added police have been deployed on the campus to ward off

further clashes. Students say there was a stained relation between the president and secretary groups over formation of a new BCL committee of the college unit.

BSF boss

FROM PAGE 1 occasions.

The statement said attention of the ministry has been drawn to the recent remarks made by the BSF chief, regarding deaths of Bangladeshis caused by the BSF's shooting along the border areas.

During an interview with the BBC Bangla Service last Wednesday, Bansal said it would not be possible to put an end to the firing along the border as his troops must take steps to stop the offenders. The statement said that

Bangladesh's concern at such incidents has been brought to the attention of the Indian side at various forums, where Bangladesh was assured by the Indian leadership that maximum restraint would be exercised by BSF personnel.

Gambira was taken away by authorities early on Friday