



## LITERATURE AWARD 2011

Four young writers receive the award initiated by Kali O Kalam and HSBC  
PAGE 11

## EVEREST CALLING

Two Bangladeshi girls set out for the top of the world  
PAGE 2

## NO A-BOMB

Iran is "against nuke weapons", but rejects West's demands  
PAGE 7

# Ctg holds key to country's growth

### 6 urgent steps put forward to turn it into a global port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts from different backgrounds have recommended six urgent tasks to turn Chittagong into a global port city which will drive the country's economic growth.

The suggestions came from a two-day economic conference "Future Chittagong, Future Bangladesh" organised by The Daily Star and Chittagong Research Initiative with the support of the BGMEA and AK Khan Foundation.

It is necessary to improve the port and connect it with China through Myanmar and Northeast India. Bangladesh should also explore the possibility of Myanmar as a source of cheap raw materials, gas and food grains.

### WAY FORWARD FOR A GLOBAL CITY

- Improving port management efficiency
- Connecting port to China, NE India
- Exploring Myanmar as source of raw materials
- Creating a civil society-businessmen platform to push agenda ahead

In order to ensure rapid industrialisation of Chittagong, its energy needs must be met on a priority basis. Besides, the city's land must be utilised properly by setting up multi-storey industrial units.

Urban facilities and civic amenities such as health care and quality education have to be ensured. It is also essential to have a joint platform for civil society and businesspeople that will act as a catalyst for change.

Chittagong plays a key role in Bangladesh's development, said Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, at the conference in the office of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in Chittagong.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

# Nod to 6 more new banks

### Central bank rules out political consideration



HM Ershad Union Bank, MK Alamgir Farmers' Bank, Fazley Noor Taposh Modhumati Bank, HN Ashikur Rahman Meghna Bank

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday gave the go-ahead for six new private banks, all linked with either lawmakers of ruling Awami League and Jatiya Party or influential persons.

BB Deputy Governor Sitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury told reporters that the

new banks were approved after "proper evaluation" and without any political consideration.

He said those who submitted applications for setting up the banks are all citizens of Bangladesh and their political identities had nothing to do with the approval.

One of the six is Union Bank Ltd. HM SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## WATER TRANSPORT Fare hike suspended for now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday overturned a decision to hike fares of all state-run vessels by 25 to 35 percent "at the request of transport owners".

The owners had urged the ministry not to increase the fares by more than 10 percent.

"Despite the ministry approval, we have not finalised the fare chart today [yesterday] as transport owners requested a re-evaluation," Shajahan Khan told reporters after a stakeholders' meeting at Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation office.

He has formed an eight-member committee headed by the ministry's SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## PADMA BRIDGE FINANCING WB still on, KL an alternative

### Say Muhith, Quader; contradict each other too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The communications and the finance ministers have said talks with the World Bank for financing Padma bridge project will continue.

However, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said the talks would be for financing the second Padma bridge project while Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the talks would be for the first bridge project and the deal being made with Malaysia now was just an alternative plan.

Obaidul Quader flew to Malaysia yesterday to sign a SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Oust-govt movement if no caretaker

### Says Khaleda; warns against plot to split BNP ahead of polls; listens to leaders' views on DCC polls, Tarique's return, graft allegations

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said her party would go for a "one-point oust-government movement" if the caretaker government system was not reinstated by June 10.

Reiterating that the opposition would not participate in the next general election without the caretaker system in place, she said tougher programmes would be



announced from a grand rally in the capital on June 11 to force the government to quit power. Warning the leaders not to be party to any conspiracy to split the BNP ahead of the election, Khaleda said, "Be careful....don't walk into any trap."

She was delivering her concluding speech at the closed-door session of the BNP national executive committee meeting SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## \$16B UNUSED AID Govt's efficiency under question

### Finance boss briefs lawmakers' frustration after pre-budget discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The amount of unused foreign aid has reached \$16 billion, highest in the country's history, raising questions from the lawmakers about the spending ability of the government.

The amount was \$13 billion at the beginning of the current fiscal year, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said at a pre-budget discussion with the members of five parliamentary committees yesterday.

"Lawmakers raised questions about it [unused fund] and many of them said it was a shame for the country," Muhith told reporters after the meeting at the planning ministry.

The government could not spend the money at a rate it came in from the development partners. Donors committed \$5.1 billion in the last FY, which was the highest in the country's history in a single year, he added.

"Our good performance has turned out to be bad as we could not utilise the foreign assistance we have received." Various ministries sometimes blame the donor SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## MARITIME RIGHTS Spl classes at schools next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has decided to arrange for a special class at secondary schools and colleges across the country next week to teach Bangladesh's maritime rights and marine issues to students.

The initiative came following a landmark verdict at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), which had sustained Bangladesh's claim to a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial zone in the Bay of Bengal, rejecting Myanmar's claim to that area.

This move aims to give students a primary concept about the country's SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



The wreckage of the training aircraft that crashed in Madhupur upazila of Tangail yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Training aircraft crashes

### Injured pilot dies at hospital

STAR REPORT

A pilot officer died and a squadron leader was injured when a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed in Madhupur upazila of Tangail yesterday.

Pilot Officer Shariful Haque succumbed to his injuries at Combined Military Hospital in Ghatail, reports our correspondent in Tangail.

Squadron Leader Muhammad Mamunur Rashid is receiving treatment at the hospital, an Inter-Services Public SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## 4 electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were electrocuted in separate incidents in the capital's Hazaribagh, Kafrul and Kadamtoli while a security guard died as a heavy iron pipe fell on him at a construction site in Dhaka's Rampura yesterday.

An embroidery worker, Mohammad Jahangir, 35, was found dead around 11:00pm on the street in Mujahidnagar of Kadamtoli. A snapped wire was lying beside the body, said Abu Sayeed, a resident in the area.

The body was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors suspected that the victim was electrocuted.

In Hazaribagh, Didarul Islam, 35, and Firoz Mia, 60, both carpenters by profession, came in contact with a live wire while setting corrugated sheets on the roof of a SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## MURDER OF JU STUDENT

# 13 BCL men charged

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Police have pressed charges against 13 Jahangirnagar University students in connection with the killing of Zubair Ahmed in January this year.

All the accused are activists of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League. They were expelled from the university on different terms.

Four of them are currently under police custody while the others went into hiding. Zubair, an honours final year student of



Zubair Ahmed

English department of the university, was allegedly tortured and stabbed by the accused and some others on January 8 over previous enmity. He succumbed to his injuries at a city hospital the next day.

Talking to The Daily Star, Zubair's elder brother Abdullah Al Mamun said he and his family members would be satisfied if the real killers were chargesheeted.

The masterminds of the killing must be SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

**WHEN EMERGENCY STRIKES**

Just dial **10678**

from any corner of the country for the best emergency service

সৌন্দর্য, সাহসের যত গল্প

The Daily Star

**প্রদ্য চিত্রগ্রহণ উৎসব**

The memorable inauguration by Anti-British Revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury, performances by Renaissance, Ornob, LRB, mindblowing laser show, fireworks and many more ...

Watch the repeat telecast TODAY at 5:30 pm on

Programme Producer: Raju Alim

**. DON'T MISS IT .**