



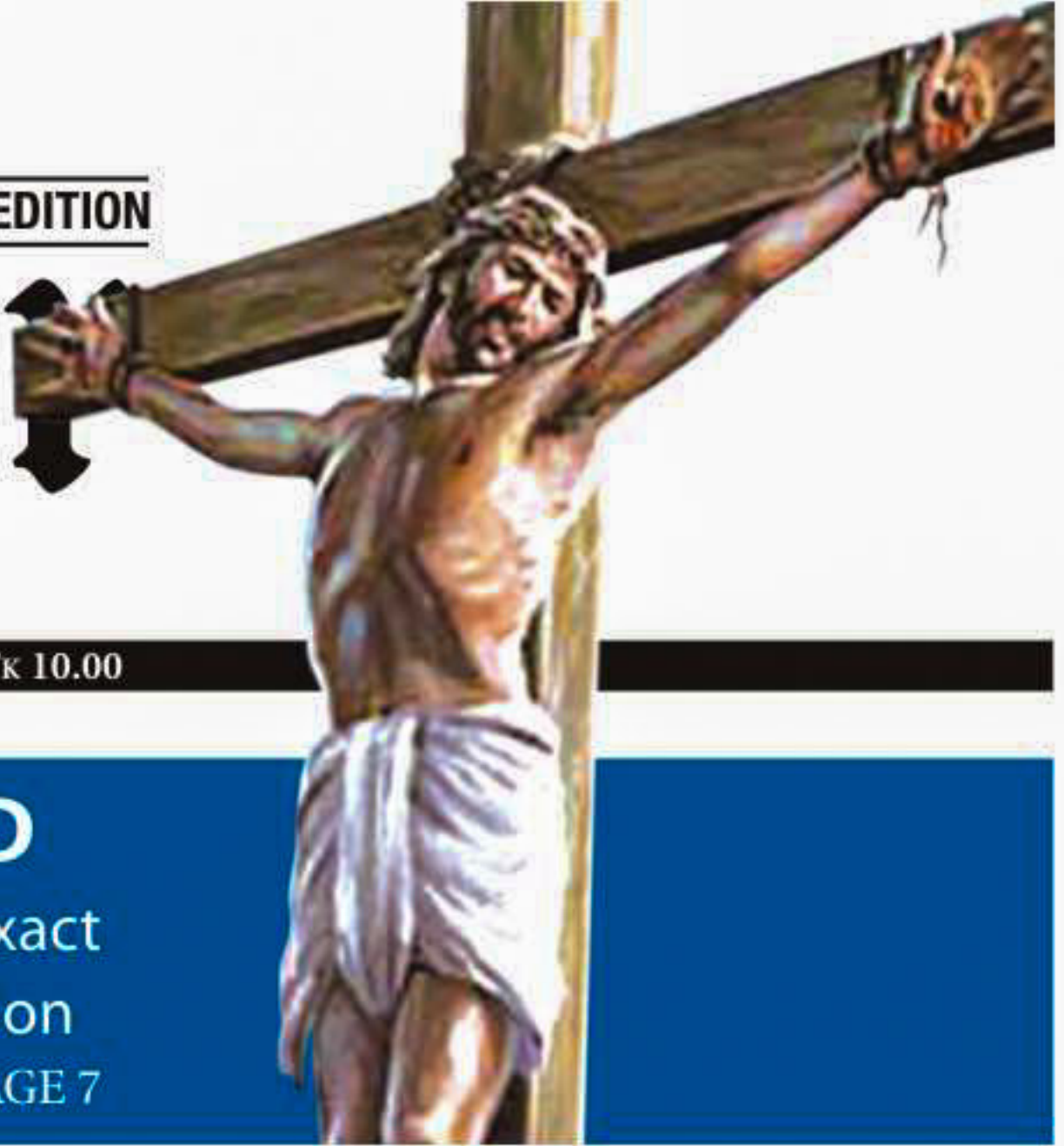
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A weeklong int'l theatre festival begins in the capital

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A study reveals the exact date of Jesus crucifixion

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JS goes into budget session today
Opposition set to boycott

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into budget session today amid boycott by lawmakers of the BNP-led opposition.

It will be the fourth budget of the Awami League-led alliance government since it came to power in January 2009. The last three national budgets got through parliament in the absence of the main opposition.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith is expected to place the national budget in the House on June 7 for fiscal 2012-2013. BNP may place a shadow budget before the finance minister places the budget in parliament, Mahbur Rahman, member of BNP standing committee, told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Wishing anonymity, a BNP lawmaker said the party was not thinking about returning to the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Fairness is the rule

HC wants guidelines for president, govt to pardon convicts; states in its full judgment 'judicial hands off' cannot be declared if question arises; nudges govt to avoid misuse of power

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The powers of the president and the government to pardon, suspend or remit sentences of any convict should be exercised fairly and on unbiased relevant principles, the High Court said in a written judgment released yesterday.

An HC bench of justices M Enayetur Rahim and Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain released the full text of its judgment yesterday, a month after the bench pronounced its verdict in a case involving presidential clemency to a fugitive convict.

It is well settled that the court cannot direct the president and the government on exercising their powers according to Article 49 of the constitution and Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), says the 19-page judgment.

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Police beat up Prothom Alo photojournalist Zahidul Karim in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday. The officer marked in the photo is Shahidul Islam, assistant commissioner of police, Tejgaon division. Another photo on page 19.

PHOTO: COURTESY

3 lens men assaulted

9 cops suspended; probe ordered; police decline to accept case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policemen assaulted three on-duty photojournalists, hurled expletives at them and took away their cameras at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka yesterday.

Injured Prothom Alo photojournalists Khaled Sarkar, Sajid Hossain and Zahidul Karim were rushed to Pangu Hospital in the capital.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police suspended nine policemen in this connection and closed Assistant

Commissioner of Tejgaon Division Shahidul Islam to DMP headquarters.

The policemen swooped on the photojournalists while they were taking shots of a demonstration

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Wasfia Nazreen during a mountaineering expedition. Another photo on page 19.

PHOTO: FILE

Wasfia mounts Everest

Dedicates her feat to Bangladeshi women

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Wasfia Nazreen has become the second Bangladeshi woman to scale Mount Everest just a week after Nishat Majumder achieved the feat.

She reached the top of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) mountain at 6:41 am Bangladesh time yesterday.

Korvi Rakshand, spokesperson of the Bangladesh on Seven Summits campaign that initiated the

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Conviction pays off

Parents on Wasfia's hard work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is an outstanding and unbelievable achievement that came following her years of perseverance, said Nazmee J Chowdhury, father of Wasfia Nazreen.

"We think this is an award from the

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BNP bribed Economist

Alleges Hanif

BSS, Dhaka

Academics, intellectuals and leaders of the ruling Awami League yesterday termed the two articles on the government and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina carried by the London-based The Economist as "untrue, unacceptable and

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Next polls to be free, fair

Affirms PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the next general election would be held in a free, fair and neutral manner, as none would be allowed to interfere in the process.

"If the Awami League could arrange 5,175 elections including 12 by-elections and polls to city corporations, municipalities and upazila and union parishes in a free,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

PM opens online tax regime

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised changing the mindset of people towards payment of income tax in order to increase the number of taxpayers and income tax returnees.

"We'll have to motivate all the people, who are

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

1 more day to go

Let the beauty unfold once again

Lux Channel i Superstar is coming back
28th May, On Channel i, at 9:30 pm

267th Branch

Grand Opening

Bahaddarhat Branch
Chittagong
27 May 2012

268th Branch

Opening Soon

Shapahar Branch
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Opening Soon

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