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**Ashura on
Nov 25**

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ashura will be observed across the country on November 25, as the moon of Muharram month was sighted yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting

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**D-8 MEETING
Gowher to
represent PM**

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be unable to attend the D-8 summit in Islamabad scheduled for November 22 because of a conflict in her schedule, said a spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Hay Festival opens in city

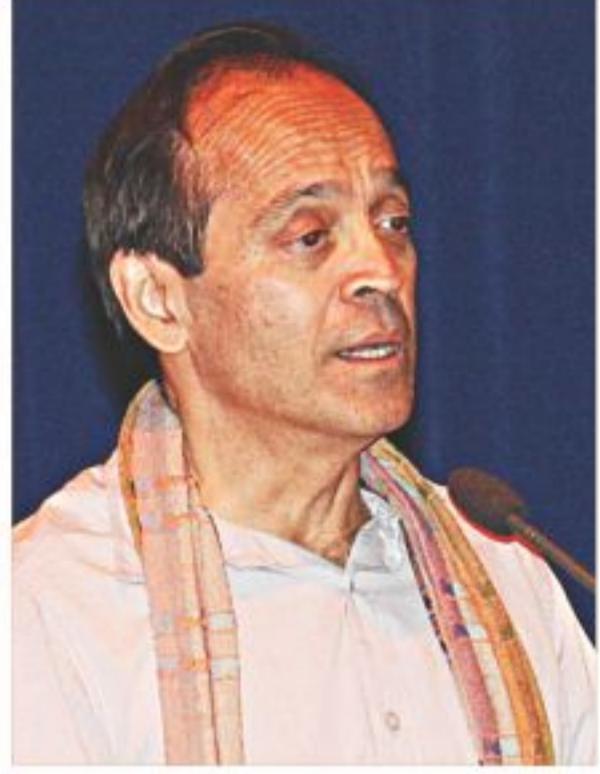
3-day event brings together over 100 eminent writers from home and abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a promise to spread the vast treasure of Bangladeshi literature across the world, the Hay Festival Dhaka opened at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

The three-day event began with an experimental performance by *Shadrona*, featuring poems of four iconic Bangladeshi writers -- Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Jibanananda Das and Mihche Madhusudan Dutt -- and the mystical songs of Lalon Shah.

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Authors, poets, academicians, artistes, and dignitaries listen to Indian author and poet Vikram Seth, left, at the new auditorium of Bangla Academy during the inaugural ceremony of the three-day Hey Festival Dhaka.

PHOTO:
STAR

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SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

5 suspects freed on Babar's order

Ex-cop tells court in 10-truck arms cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Police had detained five suspected activists of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) in connection with the seizure of 10-truck arms and ammunition in 2004 and later freed them upon receiving an order from former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar.

Ex-OC of Karnaphuli Police Station Ahadur Rahman told this to Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 here yesterday in his deposition as prosecution witness in two cases in this connection, said court sources.

Former commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) SM Sabbir Ali had initially barred Ahadur from lodging any case over the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

I trained to be a freedom fighter: Mollah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah yesterday claimed that he received training for the Liberation War along with some youths at Amirabad village in Faridpur.

Quader Mollah said this while giving testimony before the International Crimes Tribunal-2 as the first defence witness in the war crimes case

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SAYEDEE'S WAR CRIMES

Prosecution seeks death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday asked for the death penalty against Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayeede in connection with crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

The prosecution asked for the penalty before finishing off its closing arguments at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

Sayedee was indicted with 20 charges of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



ORION IPO

SEC asks DSE president to explain

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday served a show-cause notice upon the president of Dhaka Stock Exchange over the inclusion of the issue of an approved IPO in the bourse's board meeting agenda.

In a letter to Rakibur Rahman, the DSE president, the stockmarket regulator also instructed him to explain as to why the approved IPO issue was discussed in the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



Buildings have been constructed occupying the shore of the Karnaphuli in Lichibagan of Chandraghona in Chittagong. Garbage and sewage of those structures are also dumped straight into the river with little concern for the environment or the river itself.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Suu Kyi declines to back Rohingyas

Says 'illegal immigration from Bangladesh' must be stopped

STAR REPORT

Even as the country accommodates thousands of Rohingyas despite its own population and poverty problems, Aung San Suu Kyi says illegal immigration from Bangladesh has to be stopped.

Suu Kyi, on a visit to neighbouring India, yesterday said she had declined to speak out on behalf of stateless Rohingya Muslims who live on both sides of the border because she wanted to promote reconciliation after the recent bloodshed.

More than 1,00,000 people have been displaced in Myanmar since June in two major outbreaks of violence in the western state of Rakhine.

But, for Bangladesh, the intrusion of Rohingyas from

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alampir that opposition BNP was involved with the recent countrywide violence and attacks on police by Jamaat-Shibir activists?

Yes (60%)

No (38%)

No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 707

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the religion-based politics had created a political problem in the country?

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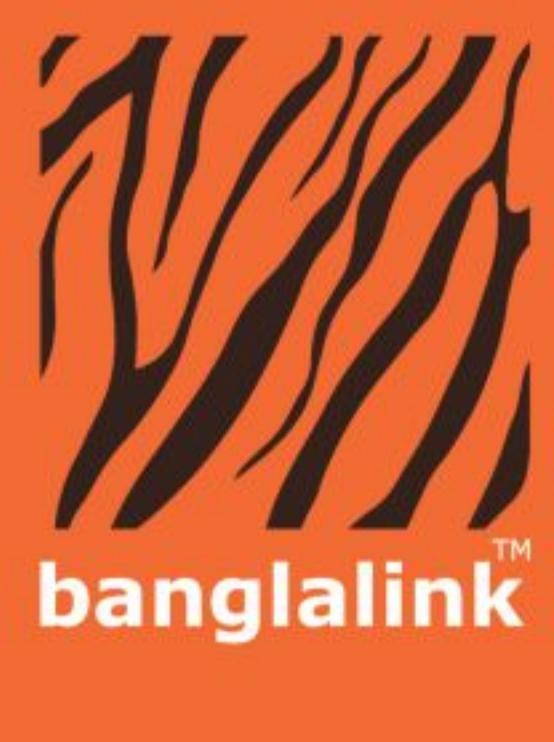
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