



# Festivity, joy in Ctg

The Baily Star, Alliance Française de Chittagong begin week-long festival on boat technology, culture

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Chittagong Shilpakala Academy premises turned into a festival ground yesterday, the first day of a weeklong gala featuring Boat Technology and Culture in Chittagong and in Bengal.

The opening ceremony was an event to be remembered by the participants for years as the stage was set in the form of a boat, with a real Shampan (a type of colourful boat) placed behind the podium for display.

Spectators shook their heads in wonder, one of them saying: "We've never seen anything like this before."

Titled "Tora Kon Kon Zabi Aar Sampanat, (Who want to board my boat)," the event is being jointly organised by

The Daily Star and Alliance Française de Chittagong (AFC). The festival is a sequel to The Daily Star-Odommo Chattagram Festival organised last year to promote the **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4** 



A photo exhibition being inaugurated at Shilpakala Academy in the port city yesterday. The show is part of a weeklong festival featuring Boat Technology & Culture in Chittagong and in Bengal jointly organised by The Daily Star and Alliance Française de Chittagong.

РНОТО: STAR

#### **FBCCI** slates Khaleda's article in US daily

Bss, Dhaka

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry has expressed deep concern over an article by the leader of the opposition published in US daily Washington Times on January 30.

In the article, Khaleda Zia has openly urged the US authority to impose sanctions on Bangladesh and also requested it to withdraw all other facilities including the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) for Bangladesh, the FBCCI said in a statement last night.

Such an appeal by the leader of the opposition is suicidal and unacceptable at a time when the

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# Hasina asks army to protect democracy

Tells senior officials to resist any anti-constitutional activities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the senior army officials to resist any antidemocratic and anticonstitutional activity for continuation of the country's development.

"Stay alert so that no vested

quarter can disrupt the country's forward march riding over the army's back. I hope you'll resist any anti-democratic and anticonstitutional activity with your all-out

strength," she said.

The premier was addressing the Generals Conference of Bangladesh Army at Dhaka Cantonment.

Despite many obstacles, she said, her government has brought the war criminals under the trial process, which was not an easy task.

She also called upon all to remain vigilant as anti-state conspiracy is being hatched to stop the trial process.

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PADMA BRIDGE

## DSE for raising funds from stockmarket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange has offered to raise half of the fund for construction of the proposed Padma bridge from the share market, three days after the government withdrewits request for a World Bank loan.

"The stockmarket can be a major partner in the financing of the project if the government plans to use own fund," DSE President Rakibur Rahman said yester-

day at a press briefing. He said the government expenditure would increase due to interest payment if it collected funds from banking

or other sectors. And for this, the government will have to

REMARKS ON WAR TRIAL VERDICT

# Now home minister has to explain

**MK Alamgir** 

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Now it is the home minister who seems to be in trouble for allegedly commenting on ongoing trials in the international crimes tribunal.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday ordered Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir to explain within 10 days his alleged comment predicting when verdicts on two war trials

would be delivered. He now joins the ranks of at least three ers, ministers Matia Chowdhury and Suranjit Sengupta, and Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, who had been served similar notices.

top ruling Awami League lead-

The tribunal had disposed those notices asking people in high offices to be more careful and not to make comments on sub-judice matters.

Yesterday, the tribunal, through a defence lawyer, warned Jamaat-e-Islami



#### Robbers kill DB man

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

An officer of the Detective Branch of police was killed following an attack by a gang of robbers at Gazaria upazila in Munshiganj yesterday.

The deceased is Shariful Islam Khan, 33, a sub-inspector of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Zakir Hossain Mazumder, additional superintendent of police of the district. Shariful hailed from

Tangail. DB police had a tip-off

that a gang of robbers would be transporting to the capital an electric transformer stolen from Comilla Cantonment or the district's

The Haily Star

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## The Black Hornet

Tiny spy drone that can follow enemy targets

DAILY MAIL ONLINE

It fits easily into the palm of your hand and looks to the world like a child's toy helicopter.

But this tiny, remote-controlled aircraft is, in fact, British forces' latest weapon against the Taliban.

Codenamed Black Hornet, the eight-inch long plastic moulded drone has three cameras hidden inside its nose, yet weighs just 15 grams, or just over half an ounce.

Black Hornet, which has a smooth grey body **SEE PAGE 19 COL 2** 

THE ECONOMIST 2 journalists have to reply to ICT notice by March 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday extended time until March 4 for two journalists of The Economist to reply to a show-cause

notice it had issued earlier. The three-member tribunal headed by Justice **SEE PAGE 19 COL 8** 

PRAYER TIMING Azan Jamaat 5-30 6-05 12-45 1-15 4-15 4-30 Maghrib 5-52 5-56 Esha 7-15 7-45

### Israel 'confirms' Syria air strike

Assad lashes out AFP, Munich, Germany

Israel yesterday implicitly confirmed it staged an air strike on Syria this week, as President Bashar al-Assad accused the Jewish state of trying to "destabilise" the

strife-torn country. The foreign minister of Damascus ally Iran, meanwhile, said he welcomed Syrian opposition leader Ahmed Moaz al-Khatib's stated readiness to hold talks with representatives of Assad's regime.

Four days after an air raid, which SEE PAGE 19 COL 2 more schools

Contest held at 6

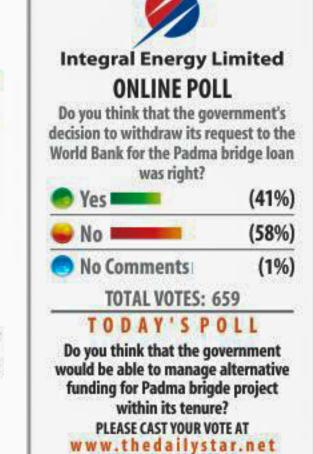
Моуикн Мантав

With the school activation rounds of the Spelling Bee around halfway through, the competition is getting fiercer every day as students are trying their best to make sure they move on to the divisional rounds.

Champs21 visited four schools in Dhaka yesterday. From Saint Gregory's High School, the qualifiers were Joy Ganguly (Class 9), Kazi Farhan Hossain Purba (Class 10) and Abdullah Jahed Sumon (Class 9).

Horlicks

Saint Xavier Francis Girls' High School saw younger qualifiers. The three top spellers were Fahmida Tasnim (Class 6), Nabila Mubassara SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



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