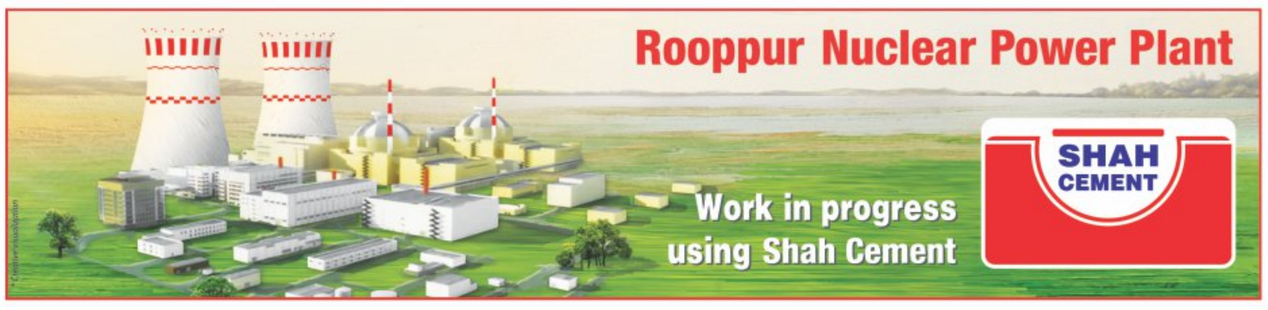

Sixth Bengal classical music fest opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Curtains will go up today on the sixth edition of the Bengal Classical Music Festival, hailed as the biggest classical music festival in the world, at the Abahani grounds in the capital's Dhanmondi.

This is the first time the festival is being held at a new venue, as the Army Stadium --the venue for the last five editions -- was not allotted to Bengal Foundation, the organisers of the event. The decision prompted the cancellation of the originally-scheduled mega event, set to be held November 25-29, although it was later re-scheduled for December 26-30 at the new venue.

Like in previous years,

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Assistant pry teachers end hunger strike

Minister gives them assurance on upgrading their salary scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The assistant primary teachers, who have been observing an indefinite hunger strike over upgrading their salary scale since Saturday, called off the programme yesterday following assurance of measures to meet their demand.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman held a meeting with a delegation of the agitating teachers at his Minto Road house in the afternoon and went to the Central Shaheed Minar around 5:30pm.

The teachers ended their strike by taking water and juice offered by Mostafizur.

"We have suspended our strike after the minister assured us that they will soon start their work to solve our problem. But if our demand is not met within a month, we will go for a fresh hunger strike," Shahinur Al-Amin, one of the leaders

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Santa Claus handing out candies to a group of children at Christmas, the biggest religious festival of the Christians. The photo was taken during Christmas celebrations at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the capital yesterday.

ME needs two-state solution

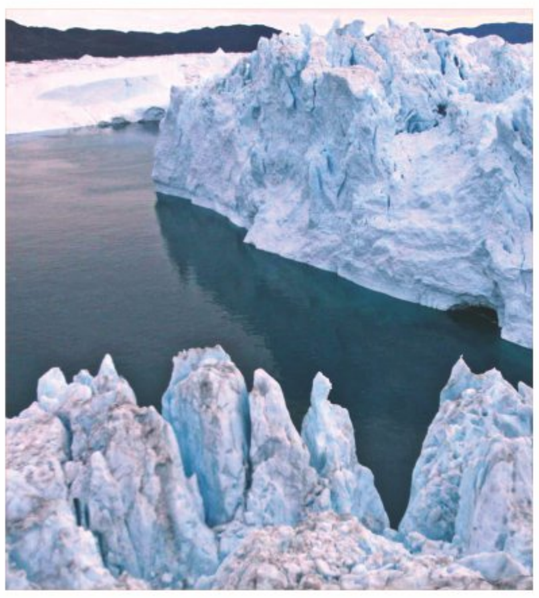
Says Pope Francis in Christmas message

REUTERS, *Vatican City*

Pope Francis yesterday used his Christmas message to call for a negotiated two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, after US President Donald Trump stoked regional tensions with his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Francis spoke of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Melting ice cap to expose secret US nuke base

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A secret abandoned nuclear base is likely to be revealed by the melting of a large icecap in Greenland due to global warming, experts have warned.

Toxic waste is expected to leak into the sea if the ice continues to melt around Camp Century, a research facility decommissioned by the US military

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Six killed in IS attack near Afghan intel HQ

Attacker blew himself up as workers were arriving at NDS offices; three injured

AFP, *Kabul*

A suicide bomber killed six civilians in an attack near an Afghan intelligence agency compound in Kabul yesterday in the latest assault claimed by the Islamic State group in the capital.

The attacker struck as workers were arriving at the offices of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), a week after militants stormed an NDS training centre in Kabul.

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish told AFP six civilians in a car were killed when the attacker blew himself up.

"Six people were martyred and three others were wounded," Danish said.

"They were hit when they were passing the area in their Toyota sedan vehicle. We still do not know the

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PLAGIARISM ALLEGATION

3 Kuet teachers suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Three teachers of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) have been suspended on charge of plagiarism in their research.

The decision came at the 58th Syndicate meeting held on Sunday after primary investigation into the allegation brought against them, said Prof Dr Muhammed Alamgir, vice-chancellor of the university.

The accused teachers are Prof Dr Mohammad Mashud and assistant professors

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

UCB opens three new branches today at Chittagong-Jamal Khan, Anowara Sadar and Patiya

UCB, with its 175th, 176th and 177th branches, is going to start the journey from today, December 26, 2017 at Jamal Khan, Anowara Sadar & Patiya, Chittagong. We are looking forward to serve you with all modern banking facilities. We cordially welcome you to our new branches to experience the difference.

Mr. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, MP, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Land, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh will inaugurate the branches as Chief Guest.

Address:
Jamal Khan: 1st floor of CPDL Meenage, 42, Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong

Anowara Sadar: APL Hossain New Market, Joykali Bazar, College Road, Anowara, Chittagong

Patiya: Islam Tower , Word No- 07, Pouroshova- Patiya Upazila -Patiya, Chittagong

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER : MAHFUZ ANAM. Printed by him from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 09610222222, 9144330 & 58156305, Fax: 9144332, 58156307, 58156306, GPO Box No: 3257, e-mail: editor@thedailystar.net,reporting@thedailystar.net