# The judiciary now completely independent PM tells int'l conference

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said an independent judiciary, and strong parliament and

administration can take a country towards development. "After coming to power, we have made the judiciary completely independent by separating it from the administration to fulfill the belief of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

Hasina said this while addressing the concluding session of the two-day International Conference on "South Asian Constitutional Courts in the Twenty-First Century: Lessons from Bangladesh and India" held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital.

> "By 2041, we will be able to make a developed and Golden Bangladesh and materialise the ideals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

> > PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

The judiciary, she said, was previously dependent on the government for financial matters.

"The government has separated the judiciary from the administration by allocating a separate budget for it."

The PM added that the government will transform the country into Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

She mentioned various initiatives taken by the Chief Justice to make the judiciary a smart one as well and thanked him.

She also thanked the higher court for their verdict regarding the fifth and seventh amendments to the Constitution declaring the military regimes illegal.

"This supplemented the country's socioeconomic advancement since 2009 by ensuring the democratic SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



### Holy Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, will be observed throughout the country tonight with due religious fervour and devotion.

On this occasion, the Islamic Foundation (IF) has chalked out programmes SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

#### **HOLIDAY** NOTICE

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, the newspaper will not be published tomorrow.

## Israeli strikes kill 92 in Gaza amid ceasefire talks

AFP, Palestinian territories

Dozens of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been killed in the latest Israeli strikes, the Hamas-run territory's health ministry said yesterday, after Israel's spy chief were "in extreme peril while the joined talks in Paris seeking to unblock negotiations on a truce.

The talks come after a plan for a post-war Gaza unveiled by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu drew criticism from key ally the United States, and was rejected by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the Israelioccupied West Bank.

The talks also come alongside deepening fears for Gaza's civilians desperate for food. The United Nations' main aid body for Palestinians, UNRWA, said Gazans world watches".

Hamas said yesterday that Israeli forces had launched more than 70 strikes on civilian homes in Gazan cities including Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis and Rafah over the previous 24 hours. The health ministry said at least 92 people were killed.

Israel's military said it was

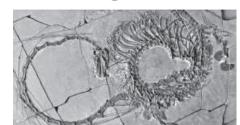
"intensifying the operations" in western Khan Yunis using tanks, close-range fire and aircraft.

"The soldiers raided the residence of a senior military intelligence operative" in the area and destroyed a tunnel shaft, a military statement

Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist movement that has ruled Gaza since 2007, said fighting was raging in the northern Gaza district of Zeitun.

In nearby Jabalia refugee camp, tempers are rising and on SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

### Scientists unveil 240-million-yearold 'dragon' fossil



CNN ONLINE

Newly-discovered fossils have allowed scientists to reveal a 240-million-year-old "dragon" in its entirety for the first ever time, National Museums SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

