mented.

PM to get summary this week

WASIM BIN HABIB

After three months of critical analysis and review, the education ministry is going to send the summary of the proposed National Education Policy to the prime minister today or on Thursday.

"We have finalised the policy at the ministry level and will send the summary of the policy to the prime minister by this week," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

The minister said the final draft of the education policy will soon be placed in the cabinet meeting and the implementation of the policy will begin once the cabinet approves it.

"The policy would be the main guideline of the education system of the country and it would be amended with the demand of time," he added.

Eight education commissions and committees have been formed since the independence but not a single recommendation of them has

of political will.

So, there is a public concern over the implementation of the new education policy.

The Awami League-led alliance government formed a 16-member committee on April 6 last year to review the report of Shamsul Haque Education Committee of 1997 and formulate a modern national education policy in line with the report of Qudrat-e-Khuda Education tem. Commission of 1974.

Kabir Chowdhury, the committee on September 2 submitted the draft of the policy to the education minister. At that time, the minister had told that they would start implementation of the policy from of opinions about the policy and January.

around three months amid protest from the religion-based political parties, said ministry sources.

Asked whether any major change has been made in the policy, Nahid said they have brought some

বাঙালির মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিজয় ও বঙ্গবন্ধুর জীবন উৎসর্গ'' বইটির

been implemented because of lack changes in the policy but the basic philosophy remained the same.

Ministry sources, however, said be destroyed if the policy is impleanything that may create controversy has been withdrawn from the policy. Moreover, some technical changes have also been made in the

A source said the Secondary School Certificate examinations would remain there in the policy considering the international sys-

The policy said primary educa-Headed by National Professor tion will be up to Class VIII and made free, universal and compulsory and there will be public exam after it.

they have received a huge number they have analysed all the opinions However, the policy got stuck for to give it a national characteristic. "There would be reflection of all

in the education policy. None would

be upset to see the policy," he said. The minister said although there was no objection about the basic philosophy of the policy, a vested

as it has become a necessity. "We want to make such an education system that will help the young generation acquire modern education with cutting-edge technology along with the lessons of patrio-

quarter has been running a smear

campaign saying that Islam would

Nothing has been done to hurt

the religious sentiments in the

policy, he said, adding that they

have tried to make madrasa educa-

tion more developed and modern,

tism," the minister said, adding, "We want to ensure participation of all and increase the standard of Asked about the delay, Nahid said education.' The policy also recommends introducing one-year pre-primary education for children over five years. The committee also sug-

> Students of all mediums in primary level will have to study several compulsory subjects, it suggested.

> gested extension of free primary

education up to class VIII and sec-

ondary education up to class XII.

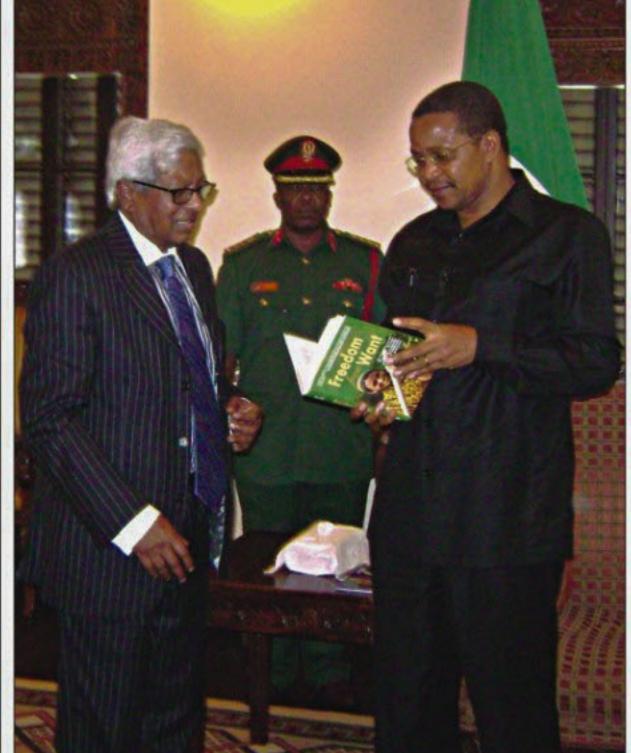


PHOTO: COURTESY

Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete thumbs through a book titled 'Freedom from Want', which chronicles the evolution of Brac, after Brac founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed presented it to him during a meeting at the president's palace in the Tanzanian capital of Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Take action against fake eunuchs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They are not eunuchs or 'hijras' by birth. Most of them underwent castration and dress up like women to identify themselves as female only to earn more money through cheating, extortion and drug peddling.

A group of hijras revealed this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity office yesterday, saying that the number such hijras has been increasing alarmingly, who are engaged in criminal activities.

They also said that they do not want to make a living out of crimes any longer and urged the government to take action against the fake hijras who are cheating and harassing people in various ways.

Badhan Hijra Sangha and Shustha Jibon jointly organised the press conference to tell how they use their hijra identity to make a living.

"As the administration usually don't take action against hijras, some men become hijras to commit crimes and go unpunished. The monthly earning of these people ranges from Tk 30,000 to Tk 1.5 lakh," said Bakul Hijra, whose real name is Alamgir Mollah.

Moti, who is now known as Sarathi, 30, said

worker. After returning to the country, he started fruit business in Tongi. "But one day, Sathi, who is a male but

that he worked in Saudi Arabia as a migrant

dresses up like a woman, approached me and said that I could earn more money if I was castrated and identify myself as a woman," said Sarathi.

"Then Sathi and his sister took me to Rupsha Nursing Home in Khulna and it took two hours for the doctors to do the surgery," he added. He also said that the surgery cost Tk 20,000

and there are many nursing homes where such operations are performed. "We are just cheating people and I do not want to do this any longer. I underwent castra-

tion just to earn more money and now I am suffering from various physical and social problems. Even my mother doesn't like me," he Delwar Hossain alias Poly, who has a wife

and two children, said one Abul Hossain forced him into the surgery. Bakul Hijra said there are only five real

eunuchs in the country.

Pinki Shikder, president of Badhan Hijra Shangha, also spoke.

PHOTO: COURTESY

strained in recent times,

handed over to her father

Mokhlesur Rahman in the after-

Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory at

Fenchuganj, Sylhet.

After autopsy, the body was

Rahman is an employee of

sources said.

Hamdard Director Marketing Hakim Rafigul Islam receives a certificate acknowledging his Doctor of Medicine degree from Industries Minister Dilip Barua at the convocation of World Association of Integrated Medicine at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre recently.

found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A female student of Shahjalal

University of Science and

Technology was found hanging

in her dormitory at Pathantola,

year honours student of

Computer Science and

Engineering department, used

to live in a private hostel rented

The cause of "the suicide" is

Roommates said Saima had

talked to her father and fiancé

Rubel over mobile phone before

she entered the bathroom

She didn't come out even

Around 1:00am, the girl was

by the university authority.

yet to be ascertained.

around midnight.

Saima Sultana Anny, a first-

Sylhet early yesterday.

Sust female student

Bangladesh moves on right track

Guests hold copies of 'Bangalee r Muktijuddho Bijoy O Bangabandhu r Jiban Utsarga' by Shamsul Alam Saeed at a publication cere-

mony at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. From left are the writer, Ramendu Majumder, Rashid Hyder, Saeed Khan and

Say German lawmakers

UNB, Dhaka

Mafidul Haque.

The visiting German parliamentary delegation says Bangladesh is moving on the right track compared with Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Pakistan and Afghanistan but observes some deficit in democratic structure particularly in rural areas and condition of human

"We intensely talked to several NGOs and other organisations working together with Germany that foster democratic structure in rural areas and we recognise that there is awareness for deficit somewhere in your country," Jurgen Klimke of ruling CDU told a group of journalists over a breakfast interaction at a city hotel yesterday.

He said it is an important factor for them that the deficits are recognised; otherwise, people would not change the situation.

Klimke and Niemat Movassat, who are members of the parliamentary standing committee on economic cooperation and development, arrived in Bangladesh on April 7 on a fact finding mission and future cooperation between Dhaka and Berlin.

The parliamentarians, who visited a prison in Bogra, and looked at the human rights situation, said these are not up to the

1,525 kgs

polythene

seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court of Department of

Environment (DoE), Chittagong

in a drive yesterday seized 1,525

kilograms of banned polythene

raiding eight shops of different

markets at the port city's

Reazuddin Bazar and fined the

Moazzem Hossain led the drive

with the help of Chittagong

Metropolitan Police (CMP) and

members of Rapid Action

Allah r Dan Plastic House, Abdur

Rahman Store, Gausia Store,

Shahjalal Store, Rahman Store,

Sayem Store, Seven Star

Polythene and Strong Variety

DoE Chittagong Acting

Director Mustafizur Rahman

Akhand and other officials were

Mustafizur said polythene is

very harmful for environment

present during the drive.

The shops that were fined are

Executive Magistrate

shopsTk39000.

Battalion (Rab).

standard of Germany and there is a lot to do to improve the situation.

Citing an example, Klimke says they found 90 prisoners staying in the jail without having beds and without knowing their rights, which is not respecting the human rights. He says the German government would also intensify its efforts to improve the situation in this area.

They also visited a garment factory to see whether the garment industry is maintaining the social compliance, which, they said, is a very important element for the German Movassat pointed out low wages and

non-payment of workers for extra-hour work which are not acceptable. He said it is possible to pay more to the workers that accounts for only one percent of the manufacturing cost of a product.

Klimke said they were told that some 25 Bangladeshi lawmakers, who own garment factories, have conflict of interest in this

On energy efficiency, both the parliamentarians favoured use of renewable energy and focused on wind or solar energy instead of coal, saying that coal is not the

energy of the future. About German development aid in

Bangladesh, Klimke said Bangladesh is among 60 chosen countries for German aid because Bangladesh is a democracy being an Islamic country and harbours stability like Indonesia and Turkey.

He said German annual development aid has been 55 million euro in the past two years and it would remain within this range in the next two years.

They expressed happiness over the utilisation of the German aid in Bangladesh. Germany supports projects in the health, family planning and HIV sector, good governance and human rights and development of municipality.

Asked about German government's position on the trial of 1971 war criminals, Movassat said the issue was not discussed during their meetings with the government leaders here.

However, Rolf D Reinhard, Deputy Head of the Mission, said they like to stop the culture of impunity but observed that the trial must comply with the international standard ensuring due process of law and

German Ambassador Holger Michael and Hans-Heinrich Schenelle, Head of the Development of the German Embassy were present.

Good number of masked leaders in BNP: Hannan

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah yesterday said there are a good number of masked leaders in the party who were not available after 1/11, but who have become active recently.

He was addressing the council of Dhaka city's north unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Engineers' Institute.

The BNP leader said the party will suffer an irreparable loss if such masked leaders become party leaders.

He called upon all to remain alert about the activities of such people.

Hannan Shah called upon Chhatra Dal leaders and activists to play the key role in the movement to

oust the government.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the importance of JCD is enormous for the nation, BNP and people of the coun-

He called upon JCD leaders to build the organisation based on knowledge to face the challenge of the 21st century.

after an hour. Getting dead BNP Joint Secretary silence from inside, the room-General Aman Ullah Aman mates called the security. said countrymen are experiencing immense suffering, as they are not getting minimum electricity, gas and

Anny and Habib-un Nobi

Khan Sohel also spoke at the

programme.

found hanging with scarf from shower. She was immediately taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani water supply. Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared her JCD General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim, BNP Saima came from Dari leaders Fazlul Haque Milon, Rampur of Trishal, Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury

Mymensingh. She had an affair with Rubel during her college days in the capital. The relation became a little

জিডি-১৭৭২

METRO DESK Bruce Hoff, a senior

Bruce Hoff

passes away



journalist of the New Nation, passed away due to old age compli-

cations at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 75, says a press release.

Hoff worked for the Daily People, The Morning News, The Bangladesh Times and the Dhaka Law Report.

He was a Dutch from his father's side and British from his mother's side. He was the last man of Anglo origin to serve the newspaper industry in Bangladesh. There is none to inherit him in Bangladesh.

Hoff was tortured by the Pakistani occupation forces during the War Liberation of Bangladesh. The Pakistani army picked up Bruce Hoff from the Daily People office on March 25 in 1971 and tortured him

the Christian cemetery at Wari in the city. Father Admond Cruze conducted the service prayer. The New Nation family is

Bruce Hoff was buried at

mercilessly.

shocked at the demise of the senior most member of the House. Mozammel Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



passed away due to cardiac arrest in the city on Saturday at the age of 60, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at Jurain graveyard.

Born in 1950, Mintu started writings from his student life and was a news presenter of the then radio Pakistan and a journalist of the Evening Post.

He was the president of Bangladesh Writers and Journalist Association in New York.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, former MLC and MLA, says a press release.

Today is the

48th death

anniversary

of Khan

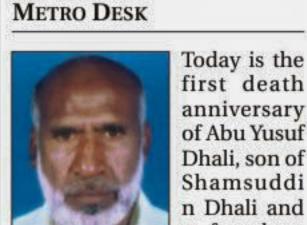
Bahadur

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held at his Uttara residence in the city. A discussion will be held at Bailchari Nazmunnessa High School and doa mahfil at Hamidia Rahima Begum

Etimkhana, Banskhali in

Chittagong.

Abu Yusuf Dhali



first death anniversary of Abu Yusuf Dhali, son of Shamsuddi n Dhali and a freedom fighter of Bhawal Monoharia

He passed away due to a cardiac arrest on the way

in Keraniganj, says a press

to Holy Family Hospital in the city on this day at the age of 52.

On the occasion, Doa mahfil will be held at his

village home at Bhawal Monohariain Keraniganj.

আসর ১লা বৈশাখ ১৪১৭ উদযাপন করা হবে। আনসার ও ভিডিপি একাডেমী সফিপুর, গাজীপুরে বর্ষবরণের এ অনুষ্ঠান চলবে সারাদিন। এখানে থাকবে মেলা ও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান। ষ্টলগুলোতে থাকবে দেশের সকল অঞ্চল থেকে আনা এ বাহিনীর সদস্য সদস্যাদের তৈরি বিশেষ সব হস্তশিল্প সামগ্রী। সারাদিন সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান পরিবেশন করবে আনসার ও ভিডিপি-র নিজস্ব শিল্পী ও একাডেমী স্কুল-কলেজের ছাত্র-ছাত্রীবৃন্দ। জাকজমকপূর্ণ এ আয়োজনে আপনি সপরিবারে আমন্ত্রিত।

নববর্ষ আমাদের সবার জীবন আনন্দে ভরে দিক আর জাতির জন্য বয়ে আনুক অনাবিল সুখ ও বিপুল সমৃদ্ধি।

-- সদর দপ্তর, আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা বাহিনী

and foods, if preserved in such polythene bags, can be contami-"Drive against polythene will be carried out every week," he



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over

Sylhet division in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Severe heat wave sweeping over the region of Ishwardi and mild to moderate heat wave over the regions of Rajshahi, Mongla, Satkhira, Jessore and Chuadanga Faridpur and Srimongal may continue. Heat wave conditions may improve.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at

Country's highest temperature 41.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 24.5 degrees

Celsius at Rangamati. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in City/Town **Humidity** in

	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.7	27.8	72	63
Chittagong	31.3	26.2	73	74
Rajshahi	39.7	26.4	72	48
Khulna	35.5	27.5	73	61
Barisal	34.3	26.6	76	69
Sylhet	34.7	25.5	73	73
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.0	63	71