

## TREE PLUNDERING Forest staff suspended for neglect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi

The forest department yesterday suspended nursery attendant Abdur Razzak for misconduct and negligence of duty in a social forestry scheme on three chars in the Padma river.

The decision came after primary probe found true the allegations of tree plundering by foresters, said Abul Bashar Mia, divisional forest officer (DFO).

Allegation against Razzak of misconduct with locals was also found true in investigation, he told The Daily Star last night.

Bashar admitted that he

## CHANGES TO CHARTER Special body consults legal experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The special committee on constitutional amendment yesterday started discussions with constitution experts about possible changes to the country's supreme charter.

It will again sit with them on October 2 for their opinions.

Mahmudul Islam, Dr M Zahir and Ajmalul Hossain, who are abroad now, could not



The building of toxic fume tragedy in Madhya Kunipara. The ground floor housed a dyeing factory while the top five floors "accommodated" around 1,200 people.

## Six-storey hazard

1,200 live on floors above dyeing factory; owner asked to start demolishing the building immediately

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday directed the owner of the six-storey factory-cum-residential building in Tejgaon industrial area to dismantle the structure immediately.

On Wednesday, at least 50 people of the building fell sick after inhaling toxic fumes from a dyeing factory housed on the ground floor. The hazardous struc-



ture--mostly made of wood and corrugated iron sheets--is home to more than 1,200 people.

Rajuk official Shafiqul Islam yesterday filed a case against building owner Md Jahiruddin and served him a notice to demolish the structure immediately.

The notice said Jahiruddin without prior permission from Rajuk had built the six-storey building on a weak

## Preface delays education policy

WASIM BIN HABIB

Four months into the cabinet's approval of the National Education Policy, the government has yet to make a visible move to implement it.

The delay is primarily caused by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who wanted to write a preface on the policy and took the last three months to write it, education ministry sources said.

To implement the country's first-ever education policy, the education ministry on June 28 this year formed a high-powered national committee headed by the education minister, but the committee could not hold a single meeting.

The policy is yet to be published on gazette due to the delay in writing the preface, and, for the same reason, the committee could not hold any meeting as the members were not distrib-

uted the copy of the policy, the sources said in return for anonymity.

However, it was finally sent back to the ministry with the premier's preface early this week, they added.

"We'll start implementing the policy after it's published in the gazette. The process to publish it is on. The policy will then be uploaded on the education ministry's website within a week or two," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star on Monday.

The policy will also be placed at the current session of the parliament for discussion, he added.

The delay in implementation, however, creates concern among teachers and guardians who fear the policy might witness the same fate like the previous ones.

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## Hasina wants new MDG for LDCs

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the international community to formulate a new MDG with specific targets for economic emancipation of developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), within stipulated time frames.

"I believe from my experience that once economic emancipation is achieved, social development would follow as a natural course--"

## Media asked not to worry

Azad insists govt believes in full press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday asked the media not to get worried by some "isolated comments" to them, saying the government believes in full freedom of the press.

"Somebody might have made a few comments [to the media]. But those are not government statements. Our government has spokespersons who alone can clarify its position," said the minister.

He added there is nothing to be worried at those offhand

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