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Your Right to Know

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RATIFYING NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

Mikhail Gorbachev highlights a positive road towards ensuring a world free of nuclear weapons.

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BLOOMS BRING SHINE TO FARMERS

Flowers add colours to our winter festivities.

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FROM PAUPER TO PRINCE

Read how Siddikur mesmerised the nation this year and made a fortune in the process.

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New look Star

Those who lead must innovate. Innovators win hearts and minds of the people. And winning hearts and minds is the only way a newspaper can flourish. Given our modest success, we in The Daily Star would like to feel, in all humility, that we have been able to win the hearts and minds of our readers, patrons and advertisers. Please accept our grateful thanks for your unstinted support over the last two decades. With better service to the readers as our only objective we present ourselves from today with a new layout. At once modern and easy to read, the paper with lively display and bigger pictures will be a far more heart warming and intellectually stimulating experience than

Sky preens for change



A shot of yesterday's beautiful winter afternoon sky in Dhaka, hardly noticed in the din and bustle of the concrete jungle.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SQ Chy antics grab spotlight

War crimes tribunal adjourns proceedings until January 17

RAKIB AHAMMED

Detained BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury once again has made an exhibition of arrogance by erupting into shouting during and after the proceedings of International Crimes Tribunal.

Salauddin was produced before the tribunal yesterday for the first time since he was booked on December 19 for war crimes.

The BNP standing committee member has often hogged the headlines for his aggressive behaviour and errant comments.

After yesterday's proceedings, he even termed the government a Karzai regime.

Salauddin showed a cavalier attitude to the court immediately after the proceedings opened at 10:30am.

He started addressing the judges without bothering to seek permission.

The judges opined the accused could not be allowed to talk, as his lawyers were present.

But Salauddin said, "I haven't appoint any counsel, as I have never signed a vokalatnama [power of attorney]."

He repeatedly sought permission to say further until the judges asked him to sit down on the chair in the dock.

Barrister Fakhru Islam rose to place argument on

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

JUNIOR SCHOOL, MADRASA EXAMS

73pc crosses hurdle

Students fail mostly in English, maths, science

BOARD-WISE PASS RATE

Barisal	81.75	Jessore	62.45
Dhaka	80.58	Dinajpur	62.18
Comilla	73.56	Sylhet	61.97
Chittagong	70.26	Madrassa	81.03



Jubilant class-VIII students of Ideal School and College, Motijheel, celebrate as the results of JSC examinations published yesterday rated the school the best in Dhaka Board. More on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

PM opens textbook distribution

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday formally inaugurated the free distribution of textbooks among the students of class I-IX.

The premier handed over a set of books to one student of each class up to class IX under general, madrasa and technical

WASIM BIN HABIB and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

The combined pass rate in the maiden junior school certificate (JSC) and junior dakhil certificate (JDC) exams is 73.04 percent.

The results of the exams, that started being held at the completion of class VIII in general schools and madrasas this year, were published yesterday.

The pass rate in JSC exam is 71.34 percent, and in JDC exam 81.03 percent.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid briefed the media about the results yesterday afternoon in Bangladesh Secretariat.

When reporters asked him whether he is happy about the JSC and JDC exams'

pass rate in light of the 92 percent pass rate in primary terminal examinations, the minister said the results are "not dissatisfactory".

He said JSC and JDC exams cannot be compared with primary terminal exams.

Class VIII students took public exams for the first time this year, and they did not get enough time for preparation as the exams had been announced only a few months ago, he added.

"A number of students, especially in the rural areas, were not accustomed to such public examinations before, and they did not get much time for preparation. On top of that, there was no pre-selection exam like the ones usually held

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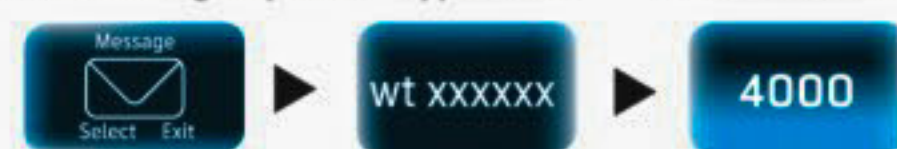
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5081068	Khachar Bhor Ochin Pakhi	Farida Parvin-Lotif Shah/Moner Manush
5081071	Milon Hobe Koto Dine	Lotif Shah and Chorus/Moner Manush
5081080	Moner Manush Theme Music	Instrumental/Moner Manush
526313	Boom Boom Pow	The Black Eyed Peas
526192	Clocks	Cold Play
526336	Just Dance	Lady Gaga
526308	Alejandro	Lady Gaga
526310	Bad Romance	Lady Gaga
526324	Hey Soul Sister	Train

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