



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk 10.00



**STUDYING A GLACIER**  
Meltwater from shrinking Nepal ice sheet poses a future flood hazard  
PAGE 7

**RESIDENT BACTERIA**  
Bacteria can build camouflaged homes inside healthy cells  
PAGE 12

**RAFA EAGER TO STRIKE**  
After a mixed year, tennis superstar Rafael Nadal looks to regain his spark in 2012  
PAGE 17

## Monipur best school in country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Monipur High School in the capital's Mirpur has emerged as the best school in the country in this year's primary terminal examinations.  
Seventeen among the top 20 schools are from Dhaka. The rest are from Comilla, Chittagong and Khulna which secured seventh, 14th and 18th positions.  
Monipur High School achieved cent percent pass rate in the examinations taken by Grade-V students. Seventy four per cent students of the



Elated students of Motijheel Ideal School and College that has won third place in this year's primary terminal exams. More photos on page 5.

PHOTO: STAR

## Dropout still a major concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Dropout at primary level remains a serious concern, casting a shadow over other successes such as high pass rate and record turnout in the examinations.  
Of around 23.16 lakh students who registered to take this year's primary

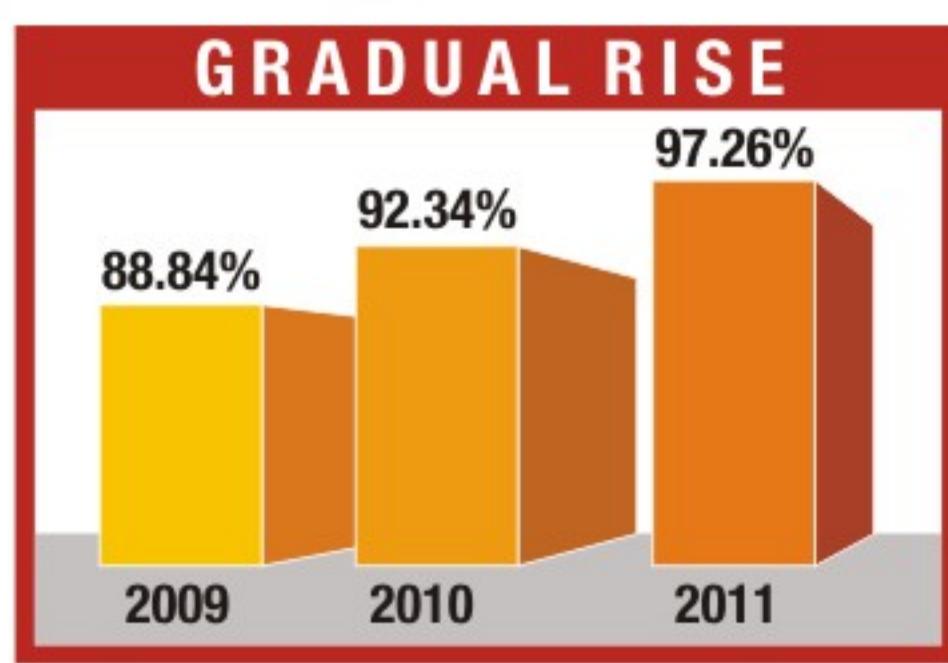
PRIMARY TERMINAL EXAMINATIONS

# Record 97pc pass

Over 1 lakh kids get GPA-5

WASIM BIN HABIB

Primary education appears to have got a significant boost. This year, 97.26 percent examinees passed the primary education terminal tests, hitting a record high since the introduction of the examination in 2009.  
The pass rate rose by 4.92 percentage points from last year's 92.34 percent. It was 88.84 percent in 2009.  
The results published yesterday show a total of 21,25,869



SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## NEW ELECTION COMMISSION BNP to join talks

President also invites AL, responds positively to demand for law raised by Workers Party, JP

RASHIDUL HASAN with PANKAJ KARMAKAR  
BNP yesterday decided to join the talks with the president on forming the next Election Commission.  
The decision came from a BNP-led four-party alliance meeting last night just hours after the main opposition got an invitation letter from President Zillur Rahman.  
"We've taken the decision to join the dialogue after discussion among the alliance components", BNP acting secretary

general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star last night.  
Ruling Awami League also received the same invitation from the president yesterday, confirmed party sources.  
AL has been scheduled to join on January 12, and BNP the day before.  
Two other components of four-party alliance -- Bangladesh Jatiya Party, and Islami Oikya Jote -- were also invited. BJP has been scheduled to join on January 2, and IOJ the day before.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## GHULAM AZAM'S TRIAL Charges sent back to prosecution

Asked to resubmit them by January 5

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

In a setback to the prosecution the International Crimes Tribunal has deferred until the first week of next month the hearing on the war crimes charges against Ghulam Azam because of flaws in the classification of the charges.  
The charges were not "properly arranged and classified", the three-member ICT said during the 10-minute hearing yesterday.  
It asked the chief prosecutor to reorganise and rearrange the charges in a "systematic form" and resubmit

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Razzak laid to rest with state honour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran Awami League leader Abdur Razzak, also a key organiser of the Liberation War of Bangladesh, was laid to eternal rest with state honours at the capital's Banani Graveyard yesterday.  
The renowned political personality, who breathed his last at a London



SEE PAGE 7 COL 3  
MORE ON PAGE 2

## Death penalty for terrorism Cabinet okays draft of amended anti-terror law

HASAN JAHID TUSHER  
The cabinet yesterday approved the final draft of the Anti-terrorism (amendment) Act, 2011 with a provision of death penalty for getting involved in, supporting or financing militancy and terrorist activities in the country.  
According to the proposed act, a convict will have to serve a minimum

## PM reiterates commitment on free EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her strong commitment of strengthening democracy and democratic institutions of the country, including the Election Commission, since, as she put it, she had always fought for establishing the rights of the people.  
She vowed to work for the welfare of the people until the end of her life. "We will not submit to any injustice as long as we are alive," said the premier while speaking at meeting with a delegation of Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) at her official resi

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

## Ordinance issued to raise govt service age

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman yesterday promulgated an ordinance to make effective the cabinet decision of increasing the retirement age of public servants by two years to 59.  
The cabinet on December 19 approved a proposal of increasing the retirement age by amending the Public Servants (retirement) Act, 1974.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Education shines with success

WASIM BIN HABIB

Education is one of the few areas in which the achievements of this government in the last three years look bright. It has widened the free textbook distribution scheme, framed a national education policy and initiated updating the curricula as part of its electoral pledges for ensuring modern and quality education.  
Embarrassed due to a crisis of school textbooks soon after assuming office in January 2009, the government decided to provide all students of primary and secondary levels with free

textbooks at the very beginning of their academic session.  
The previous governments used to give free textbooks only to primary students while secondary students had to buy their books. But the students would hardly get those even well into the first quarter of an academic session due to an artificial crisis caused allegedly by a nexus between a section of printers and government officials.  
Last year, the education ministry distributed around 19 crore copies of textbooks among some 2.50 crore

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Free textbook distribution scheme widened

National Education Policy framed

Two terminal exams introduced at classes V and VIII

Dropout rate declined

MPO related complications still persist

Private University Act 2010 passed

### 1st RSRM Golf Tournament

30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> December, Bhatary Golf & Country Club

Bhatiary Golf & Country Club

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