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SAMSUNG

BLOCKADE-HARTAL DELAYS TEXTBOOK DISTRIBUTION

First time in four years

WASIM BIN HABIB

After four consecutive years of successful and timely distribution of textbooks, the next academic year might witness a delay due to the ongoing blockades that have seriously disrupted the final round of printing and distribution.

Students at primary and secondary levels got fresh textbooks on the first day of the academic years since 2010. Officials and printers suspect it might not be the same this time.

They say the opposition's back-to-back blockades have left a domino effect on the entire process. Printed textbooks have been piled up in stores as those could not be despatched to destinations.

Similarly, the printers were not able to do the last moment's printing as papers did not reach the press. They also could not send the already-printed books for binding as the binders could not clear their stocks for distribution, they add.

Extension of blockades has further added

to their worries as they fear at least 30 percent books might not reach the destination before the deadline.

They say the political unrest had already taken a heavy toll on students as it messed up the academic calendar. But it will be a double blow for the students if they do not get books in time.

Set against a failed track record, the government started distributing free textbooks among the students from class One to class Ten in 2010.

The government aims at distributing more than 29.74 crore copies of new textbooks to more than 3.73 crore students of primary, secondary, ebtedai (primary level of madrasa), dakhil (secondary level of madrasa) and vocational classes of the 2014 academic session.

Printers and sources at National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) have informed roughly 70-75 percent textbooks of primary and secondary levels have reached the upazila headquarters, but more time is required to send those to the



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Textbooks pile up at a printer's shop in Bangla Bazar in the capital as the authorities concerned could not ship them out due to back-to-back blockades and hartals. Every child in school getting a new set of books on day-1 of the 2014 academic calendar could be at stake.

Talk, end crisis

Leading citizens ask political leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens have called upon the political leaders to reach a consensus through dialogue and stop the ongoing violence.

"We do not give our mandates to political parties so that they could play with our lives," said advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra.

She called for putting a stop to all sorts of political violence and asked political parties to reach a consensus.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Send resignation letters to PM

Ershad texts JP ministers

SHAKHAWAT LITON, HASAN JAHIID TUSHER and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad last evening via text directed his party leaders in the poll-time cabinet to submit their resignation letters to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

He changed his earlier decision of submitting the letters to the President to comply with the constitutional guideline and to avert any controversy over his party ministers' resignation process.

According to article 58 (1) of the constitution, a minister needs to submit his/her resignation letter to the prime minister for

submission to the President.

JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader, also civil aviation and tourism minister, had communicated Ershad's instructions to the leaders concerned, highly placed sources in the JP said.

"I will try to make an appointment with the premier tomorrow [Saturday] morning to submit the resignation letters," Hawlader told The Daily Star last night over the phone.

He said, "If we do not get any appointment since tomorrow is holiday, we may hand over the letters to the PM's principal secretary to have those forwarded to her."

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Man shot dead for toll in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot a trader dead at Mirpur in the capital yesterday evening.

Qamruzzaman Sumon, 30, was declared dead around 9:00pm when he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The brother of the deceased, Farhad Hossain Razon, told The Daily Star that two criminals had shot Sumon around 8:30pm in front of their under-construction house. Farhad was standing next to

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UN TEAM IN CITY

No appointment with president, army chief

Govt rejects Taranco's request

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Key UN official Oscar Fernández-Taranco arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day whirlwind visit to hold talks with political leaders to figure out a mutually acceptable formula to holding an "inclusive, non-violent and credible" election.

Diplomatic circle considers the visit of Taranco, the UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, highly significant as it is apparently the last-ditch diplomatic effort to encourage all interlocutors for dialogues to hold the polls.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think major political parties are sincere to solve the political crisis?

Yes (6%) No (94%)

TOTAL VOTES: 354

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there is still hope for an all-inclusive national election?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 7

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



A police van burns in Uttar Badda of the capital yesterday afternoon after reportedly Jamaat-Shibir activists attacked the vehicle and set it alight.

PHOTO: STAR

BKMEA **BGMEA** **STMA**

বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১ পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

পোশাক শিল্পকে বাঁচাতে, দেশের অর্থনীতিকে সচল রাখতে আমাদের মানববন্ধন কর্মসূচীতে যোগ দিন

দেশের চলমান অস্থিতিশীল পরিস্থিতির কারণে বর্তমানে পোশাক শিল্পে এক উৎকর্ষময় অচলাবস্থার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। এ শিল্প আজ বিপর্যয়ের দ্বারপ্রান্তে উপনীত। এ পরিস্থিতিতে জাতীয় অর্থনীতিতে বিশেষ করে পোশাক শিল্পে স্থবির পরিস্থিতির অবসান, সেইসাথে শিল্পকে এগিয়ে নেয়ার অভিপ্রায় থেকে ০৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৩ তারিখে (শনিবার) সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকায় তৈরি পোশাক শিল্প পরিবারের উদ্যোগে বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স এর সম্মুখে এক মানববন্ধন কর্মসূচীর আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, যারা মনে করেন, পোশাক শিল্প বাঁচলে দেশ বাঁচবে এবং জাতীয় অর্থনীতি সচল রাখার জন্য পোশাক শিল্পকে টিকিয়ে রাখা অপরিহার্য, পোশাক শিল্পের সেইসব শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদেরকে, সেইসাথে পোশাক শিল্প সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে উপরোক্ত মানববন্ধন কর্মসূচীতে যোগদানের জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

মহাসচিব

TOM AND JERRY Parents' choice

MAIL ONLINE

Classic cartoons Tom and Jerry and Scooby Doo have been named the TV programmes that parents secretly most like to switch channels to watch.

The nostalgic favourites -- alongside Postman Pat and Fireman Sam -- are popular with parents of young children because they remind them of their own

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Beautiful Bangladesh

ICON COMPETITION

Bangladesh Tourism Board invites all Bangladeshi and foreign nationals at home and abroad to vote for selection of a structural "Icon" of the country, which will best describe and distinguish the country's image.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES:

- Icon will be selected from the following structural monuments/establishments of the nation:
 - National Martyrs' Memorial, Savar
 - Central Shahid Minar, Dhaka
 - Bangladesh Parliament Building (Jatiyo Sangshad Bhaban)
 - Ahsan Manjil, Dhaka
 - Sixty Dome Mosque, Bagerhat
 - Laibagh Fort, Dhaka
 - Paharpur Buddhist Monastery
 - Others
- Both Bangladeshi and foreign nationals are requested to vote for selection of a Built & Structural Icon of the country.
- One can vote online logging in www.visitbangladesh.gov.bd using the valid Email Address on the basis of one vote for one email address.
- Three Voters will be awarded 3 couple Dhaka - Cox's Bazar - Dhaka airlines ticket & 2 nights stay in a luxurious hotel in Cox's Bazar.

Voting continues from November 01, 2013 to January 15, 2014
The Icon will be declared on February 01, 2014

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Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

www.visitbangladesh.gov.bd / www.tourismboard.gov.bd

Bangladesh Tourism Board
National Tourism Organization