### 100pc literacy

FROM PAGE 16 The project is now at the preparatory

stage, under which deputy commissioners of the districts will carry out field-level work through selective NGOs (non-government organisations), said Primary and Mass **Education Minister Mostafizur** Rahman.

Asked why the government has fallen short of the electoral promise, he said, "It is not possible to change everything overnight but we have put all-out efforts and continued trying to ensure cent percent liter-

Since 1991 when democracy was restored in the country, successive governments implemented a number of projects spending more than Tk 2,000 crore in collaboration with development partners.

The literacy rate rose to 51 percent in nearly six years by 1997 from 35.3 percent but then the progress seemed to lose momentum.

In 1995, the government formed the Directorate of Non-Formal Education that implemented four projects before being transformed into BNFE in 2005.

All the projects had separate target groups and achieved their goals, said BNFE officials, adding that many people had received basic and skillbased education.

Still, around 40 percent people are illiterate.

Experts pointed out that lack of long-term and sustainable planning in non-formal education and constraints of resources for adult education programmes were behind the government's failure in reaching the

The government should set a realistic timeframe and make a more focused move to achieve the target, they added "From the very beginning, our

focus is on institutional education. Therefore, adult education gets less priority. And whatever initiatives the government took were solely projectbased," said Rasheda K Choudhury, former primary education adviser to caretaker government.

The government's will to increase literacy rate has not been reflected in the policy, planning and investment,

"We did not see investment in the people who were either left out or dropped out of formal education. If we analyse our budget since 2000, we would realise that the literacy was a forgotten agenda."

The executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, Rasheda, however, added that the literacy issue had been sidelined globally with the donor agencies paying little attention to it.

To achieve the target, the educationist said, "We have to acknowledge that a huge number of people are still left out of our institutional system and then we've to have a proper plan and strategies in place."

The programmes should be taken up considering socio-economic realities unlike those that are projectbased.

There should be a social movement engaging communities and local governments against illiteracy, Rasheda said.

"There has to be a sustained effort," said Manzoor Ahmed, profes-

sor emeritus of Brac University, echoing her view. The aim to wipe out illiteracy by

2014 was unrealistic, he said, adding that nationwide community learning centres should be set up, where the learning process would continue.

#### Tk 10cr VoIP

FROM PAGE 16

were unclaimed at the cargo hall, customs intelligence officials seized the goods.

The officials opened the cartons yesterday morning in presence of other agencies working at the airport and found the equipment worth

around Tk 10 crore, said Moinul. The mentioned address of the importer was found fake.

A three-member probe team, led by Customs Intelligence Joint Director Shafiur Rahman, was formed to investigate the matter. It has been asked to submit its report within 15

Moinul said they were investigating whether any employees and organisation working in the airport were involved.

### Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16

working days.

century," she told a team of Hindu community members at her Gulshan

office. The team met the BNP chief to exchange greetings with her on the

occasion of Janmashtami.

Khaleda called upon the Hindus to spread the message among their community that BNP is not a communal party; rather, it believes in

freedom of all religions. "We've to clear the misunderstanding that developed between us [BNP and the Hindus]," she said.

### Germany has a heart

FROM PAGE 1 gifts into their hands.

"What we are experiencing now is something that will... change our country in coming years," she said. The spontaneous solidarity showed

"something very valuable, especially in view of our history," she said. Merkel expressed joy that "Ger-

many has become a country that many people abroad associate with hope". Merkel and her stone-faced finance minister, Wolfgang Schaeuble, have

frequently been lampooned in Nazi caricatures in the anti-austerity protests during Greece's long and debilitating debt crisis. In fact, during the bitter bailout standoff between Athens and its creditors, commentators of all political stripes said

they feared that Berlin's "bad cop" stance

could bring back "ugly German" stereotypes of rigid, brutal enforcers. But that image appears to have vanished, almost overnight, after Germany signalled its readiness to offer shelter to more than 800,000 refugees from Syria and other coun-

tries this year -- the biggest intake of

any EU country. Under the EU's so-called Dublin rules, asylum applications must be processed by the country where a person first arrives.

But Germany has decided to suspend that rule for Syrian refugees, effectively opening up a corridor for them to seek safety in Europe's biggest and most prosperous economy. 'I LOVE GERMANY'

Europe is deeply divided over how to handle the continent's biggest refugee crisis since the end of World War II, and Hungary's and other eastern European nations' hard line has contrasted with a show of solidarity elsewhere in Europe. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor

giving refugees false hopes and causing the unprecedented influx of refugees into Europe. "The problem is not a European problem, the problem is a German

Orban lashed out at Germany for

problem," Orban charged. In view of Hungary's unwelcoming stance, it is hardly surprising that hundreds of migrants chanted "Germany, Germany" as they waited at a Budapest railway station last week,

some clutching photos of Merkel

and signs proclaiming "I love Germany". And then, when thousands of bewildered refugees, frightened and exhausted from their perilous journeys, stumbled out of trains in Munich and Frankfurt at the weekend, they were given a heroes' welcome by ordinary Germans brandishing welcome signs

MORE FUNDS In the wake of the growing pro-

and bags of food, water and presents.

refugee sentiment -- and given the country's economic prowess -- the government is putting its money where its mouth is and plans to make an additional six billion euros (\$6.7 billion) in public funds available next year to cover the cost of looking after the refugees.

But pockets of simmering antiimmigrant sentiment remain, mostly in the former communist east of Germany, where refugee centres have become the targets of violent protests and attacks, not just by neo-Nazis and extremist far-right groups.

Five people were injured when a fire erupted at a refugee shelter in Rottenburg in south-western state of Baden-Wuerttemberg early Monday. Another blaze hit buildings scheduled to become shelters in the town of Ebeleben in the state of Thuringia in the formerly communist east, but no-one was hurt.

### Govt asks BTRC to start re-registration of SIMs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in a letter yesterday asked Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to take immediate steps to start the re-registration process of all mobile phone connections.

"We need to go for re-registration of all subscribers; otherwise we won't be able to know the number of genuine subscribers," said Tarana Halim, state minister for telecom.

On Sunday, in a meeting with the law enforcement agencies, the government decided to have all mobile phone users re-registered by this year to prepare a database of subscribers, and control criminal activities through cellular networks.

However, BTRC's outgoing chairman Sunil Kanti Bose told journalists yesterday that there was no need to go for re-registration of SIMs that have been registered properly at the time of purchase.

#### India allows

The issue of regularisation of entry and stay of such Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals in India has been under consideration of the central government, the ministry

Officials put the figure of such minority "refugees" from Bangladesh and Pakistan at around two lakh.

### Teachers go for no work

their proposal before informing it to the government.

The teachers have been waging a movement since May 14 and observed work abstention on different occasions after the secretary-level committee submitted a review report on the pay commission's proposal.

They rejected the proposed structure, terming it "disgraceful and discriminatory".

They said the proposed pay scale had deprived and devalued university teachers as it created two special levels for "senior secretary and secretary" putting them two levels above teachers.

They demanded that the government should keep the same salary, allowances and other benefits of senior secretaries for senior teachers.

Similarly, professors should enjoy the status, salary, allowances and other

benefits of the secretaries, they added. They believe their position in the warrant of precedence was not duly placed and demanded either due

respect or exclusion from it.

According to the warrant of precedence, the position of a secretary is 16th and the position of a senior professor is 19th although they get the same grade. Even the position of a vicechancellor is 17th.

The teachers met the education minister and the chairman of the University Grants Commission and placed their demands.

Contacted, DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said salary, allowances and other facilities of teachers at all levels should increase in order to build a properly educated nation.

Talking to The Daily Star, he expressed the hope that there would be a qualitative change in education if teachers' salary and other allowances increased.

He said there should have been a separate pay scale for Dhaka University teachers as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wanted to give a special status to this university on August 15, 1975, the day he was supposed to attend the convocation.

### Sangsad passes PPP bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament yesterday passed the Public Private Partnership Bill 2015 which aims to draw more foreign and private investment in the serviceoriented sector.

The House passed the bill by a voice vote, rejecting the amendment motions moved by the opposition and independent lawmakers. The lawmakers brought 21 amend

ment motions and asked the government to send the bill to the parliamentary standing committee concerned for further scrutiny. Matia Chwodhury, minister in

charge of Prime Minister's Office for parliamentary affairs, placed the bill before the House with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury presiding. Under the proposed law, the gov-

ernment will set up Public Private Partnership Kartripakkha board. According to the bill, the body will

be neutral and independent and will have Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the chairman of the board of governors while finance minister will be its vice-chairman. The PM will nominate a minister as its member while another member

particular project. The PM's principal secretary will be the member secretary of the body. The proposed bill keeps a provision for holding the board of governors meeting at least six times a year,

will be from a ministry concerned for

barriers in implementing projects. The head office of the PPP Kartripakkha will be in Dhaka while the PPP authority will be able to set up its branch offices anywhere in the country and abroad for its smooth

and has a provision for resolving all

The PPP authority can draw any project, apart from the Annual Development Programmes, and implement that project through the

Currently, a total of 42 projects are being implemented under the PPP.

#### Mother nature

FROM PAGE 16

operation.

Arizona, the adventurous duo have also hiked around Mexico and Hawaii.

The 25-year-old, who calls herself a 'nature groupie', treks through mountainous terrain with Hadlie on her back, before rock climbing together with ropes and harnesses.

And Hadlie has been practicing her skills on an indoor rock wall at home since she was just 18 months

Morgan, from Phoenix, Arizona, said: "We started out very basic, short hikes, local to where I live and just grew from there. It's important for kids to be in touch with nature - we get so lost behind technology.

"I want Hadlie to appreciate life and I don't think there's any better way for her to learn, grow and have gratitude than to be friends with Mother Earth."

She added: "I love that we are creating all these memories of traveling, camping, climbing and just being outside together."

And it's not just hiking and climbing they do together, Morgan also enjoys horse riding and bouldering with her daughter.

During the week, Morgan studies a course in sustainable agriculture, volunteers at a community gardens and works for a landscape design company. Her weekend adventures with

her adorable daughter are documented in a series of stunning images on Instagram, where the pair have more than 11,000 follow-

# Germany to welcome only asylum seekers

Says envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of hundreds of thousands of refugees entering Germany, Berlin said it would welcome refugees and political asylumseekers but would not allow illegal migrants in the country.

"While we will welcome political asylum-seekers in Germany, illegal migrants will not be able to stay in our country," said German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Thomas Prinz, adding that they would have to differentiate between desperate asylum seekers and economic migrants.

In a press statement yesterday, the diplomat said there were plenty of legal opportunities to move to Germany, while "penalties for illegal migration are hard".

"In the past days I have received numerous positive reactions from Bangladeshi citizens, complimenting my government on its approach towards refugees in Europe. Let me extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of our Bangladeshi friends that gave us moral support in these challenging times", said Dr Prinz.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany expected to take at least 800,000 asylum seekers this year. The figure is likely to go up and could hit one million, Berlin says.

Reaffirming the existing burden sharing system within the EU, Ambassador Prinz emphasized that this was a humanitarian catastrophe, and that "refugees needed quick help

and Germany was happy to provide aid in this exceptional case -- this was a time for generous and swift assistance". "Due to our history we have a spe-

cial responsibility towards political

refugees from crisis zones around the world. I am proud that my fellow citizens acknowledged the humanitarian dimension of the crisis and rose to the occasion by welcoming exhausted families from Syria and Iraq in Germany, handing out food, water and toys," said the German ambassador. Last week, images of the Munich rail station went around the globe, he said

adding, "The odyssey of thousands of exhausted refugees from war-torn countries like Syria and Iraq finally came to an end, when they were welcomed by hundreds of volunteers in the Bavarian city." German authorities handed out

water and food to the tired masses, while bystanders cheered when refugees disembarked from trains from Austria and Hungary, he said. Prinz said Europe was facing its biggest refugee crisis in recent history.

Asylum-seekers from conflict zones in the Middle East and Africa were fleeing war, terror and oppression.

"This year, Germany alone is expecting 800,000 asylum-seekers -- a great challenge for local communities, the government's budget and its citizens. The number of refugees in Germany has quadrupled in the last twelve months," the diplomat noted.

additional six billion euros in federal

funds for 2016 and said the rest of the

money would come from states and

ing after a weekend in which some

20,000 migrants made their way to

Germany from Hungary by train, bus

and on foot, described the events of

the past days as "breathtaking" and

tried to reassure German citizens that

you look back at our history," she said.

that some people are saying this has

nothing to do with them," Merkel said.

"This won't work in the long run. There

will be consequences although we

decision to let thousands of migrants

traveling through Hungary into the

country, but she also faced criticism,

both from conservative coalition mem-

bers at home and anti-immigration

politicians abroad, who accused

Germany of attracting even more

Merkel repeated yesterday that the

Many politicians praised Merkel's

"This is something to cherish when

"What isn't acceptable in my view is

the crisis was manageable.

don't want that."

Chancellor Angela Merkel, speak-

communes.

#### Merkel for more help Their ruling coalition pledged an

Some 22,000 migrants crossed from Hungary via Austria into Germany over the weekend, according to police estimates, after authorities bowed to pressure to accept one of the largest waves of displaced people since World War II. The influx of migrants has left the EU scrambling to respond and countries at odds about instituting a quota system, with poorer EU members resistant to taking a broader share.

Angela Merkel said yesterday that the record refugee influx to Europe's biggest economy will change the country, which was now seen by many abroad as a place of "hope".

"What we are experiencing now is something that will occupy and change our country in coming years," she said after 20,000 migrants arrived at the weekend alone. "We want the change to be positive,

and we believe we can accomplish that," she added. Merkel said scenes of spontaneous

solidarity from hundreds of Germans who greeted families fleeing wars in Syria and beyond at railway stations with gifts and welcome signs were "very moving" and "breathtaking". "That is something very valuable,

especially in view of our history," she said, expressing joy that "Germany has become a country that many people abroad associate with hope". She stressed that other EU countries

must take in more migrants because "only with common European solidarity can we master this effort". Merkel called for a "solidarity-based

and fair distribution of refugees" and said the "Europe based on values must show its face". Germany -- which expects 800,000

asylum requests this year, four times last year's total -- said her country could face costs of 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) next year. "That order of magnitude doesn't

seem implausible to me," she said at a

joint press conference with centre-left

Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel.

decision was a one-off move responding to an emergency situation, but her spokesman Steffen Seibert said he couldn't say when the situation would return to normal. German measures attempt to better

refugees to the continent.

control the current influx of asylum seekers, notably by reducing financial incentives for migrants. The parties also proposed to change German law to declare more Western Balkan countries -- Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro -- as "safe countries of origin" to limit the number of people eligible for asylum.

She told reporters in Berlin that Germany will ensure that those who need protection receive it, but that those who stand no chance of getting asylum will have to return to their homes swiftly.

## Ensure smooth movement

FROM PAGE 16

"Political activists under different banners also joined them ...," he told The Daily Star over the phone. Rustom said they at a meeting with

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan on September 1, demanded that the harassment of truckers and cattle traders be stopped. There are about 1.27 lakh trucks and lorries in the country, according to

an estimate of the association. Around 40,000 trucks would be carrying cattle across the country, Rustom said.

The IGP press briefing was an outcome of a meeting of police high-ups that primarily focused on security issues during Eid, said meeting sources. Additional IGPs, all commission-

ers and DIGs of ranges, highways, railways and industrial police attended the meeting. The sources said security of the government and private organisations

was also discussed. If necessary, police

bloggers' safety and curbing militancy. said to stop smuggling of leather, they would prevent leather-laden truck

from leave the capital after Eid. He did

might provide organisations with security during the Eid holidays. They also discussed issues regarding At the press briefing, IGP Shahidul

not say for how long they would stop those trucks.

On makeshift cattle markets in the capital, he said they had talks with city corporation officials about where those could be built without disrupting traffic on nearby streets and creating other problems. He said the police were working to

capture members of doping gangs. He urged people to be aware of such gangs while travelling as they take valuables of travellers by drugging them. At least 14 watchtowers would be

The IGP said police in the last couple of months seized 37,751 motorbikes that had not been registered. Of those, 11,036 were returned to their owners as they could produce valid documents for their bikes.

built to monitor vehicular movements

#### EXPATRIATE HELP CELL Meanwhile, in order to offer better

on highways.

service to expatriates, police established an expatriate help cell under an additional DIG at its headquarters, says a police press note. Expatriates at home during the

holidays could file complaints and seek help contacting 01769690019 and expatriatehelp@police.gov.bd

**Project Title** 

Tender Name

#### **ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED** 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh

Ref No: EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/Internal Fitouts /2015/590

Date: 07 September, 2015

Amendment of Tender Notice

(Amendment No -1)

: Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Validation & Qualification of Internal Fitouts

Invitation Ref. No.: EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/Internal Fitouts/2015/17, Dated: 14 July, 2015

Notice Subject to be Amended Shall be Amended as Existing as SI. No 10 September, Time: 05:00 PM (Local Time) 11 October, 2015 at 05:00 PM (Local Time) Tender Last Selling Date and Time Tender Closing Date and Time 13 September, 2015, Time: 03.00 PM (Local Time) 12 October, 2015 at 03:00 PM (Local Time) Tender Opening Date and Time 13 September, 2015, Time: 03.30 PM (Local Time) 12 October, 2015 at 03:30 PM (Local Time) All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

(Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir) **Project Director** Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj