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A man is working on a solar panel at a Bede Palli on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj. Use of solar panels to generate electricity has become popular among the Bedes, a gypsy community people, as it does not require any additional fuel cost. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PRIMARY EDUCATION NOW UP TO CLASS VIII

Huge task ahead

WASIM BIN HABIB

From now on, primary education in the country will be up to class-VIII.

The government made the decision yesterday to extend the level of primary education from class-V in light of the National Education Policy 2010.

All the educational activities from class-I to VIII will now be supervised by the primary and mass education ministry. Previously, the academic activities of class-VI to VIII were under the jurisdiction of the education ministry.

The decision came at a meeting on implementation of the national education policy. Educationists and teachers attended the meeting at the education ministry at the secretariat.

However, implementing the decision is going to be a huge challenge for the government as it would require big funds for the appointment of additional teachers, their training and preparation of a new curriculum, said education ministry officials.

With the elevation of primary level, the level of secondary education would be from

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Existing primary schools around

63,000

Teachers around

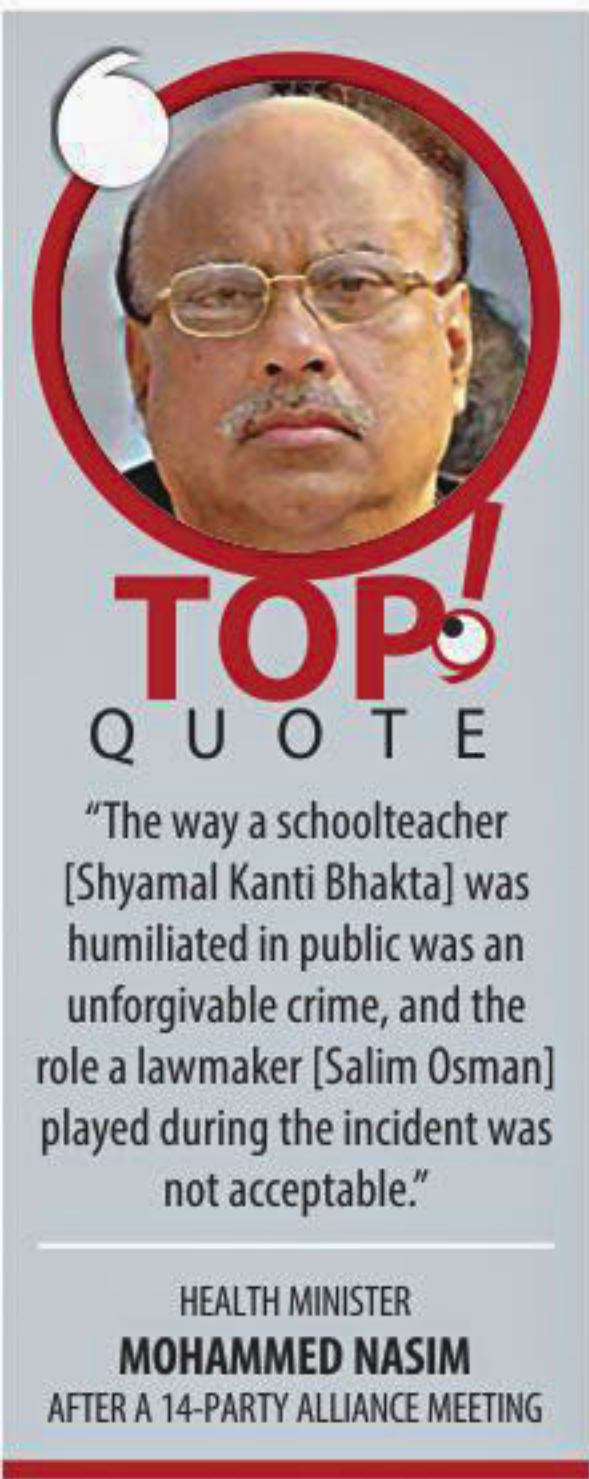
3,50,000

CHALLENGES

Preparing new curriculum

Need for additional teachers

Fund for teachers' training



PUBLIC HUMILIATION OF TEACHER

Islamist group comes to MP's defence

HC questions why those responsible should not face legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tehrik-e-Khatme Nabuwat, an Islamist group, has come on the scene apparently to counter the public outrage over the humiliation of a Hindu schoolteacher in Narayanganj.

Several hundred activists of the outfit demonstrated in the district headquarters yesterday afternoon, demanding capital punishment to the teacher for what they said was making anti-Islam comment.

In a show of support for local lawmaker

AKM Salim Osman of Jatiya Party, the group also demanded trial and punishment of people "hatching conspiracy" against him.

On Friday, the lawmaker from Narayanganj-5 was seen instructing Shyamal Kanti Bhakta, headmaster of Piya Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area, to do squats holding ears. Before that, Shaymal was beaten up by a mob.

It was not the end to the teacher's sufferings as the school management committee on Tuesday suspended him on the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

DB moves to file sedition case against BNP's Aslam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police will submit an application today to the home ministry seeking its permission to file a sedition case against arrested BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury.

Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of DB (north), made the comment while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), home ministry approval is mandatory to file a sedition case against any one.

A DB team arrested Aslam along with one of his associates in the capital's Khilkhet area on May 15. The BNP joint secretary general had drawn controversy after meeting Mendi N Safadi, an Israeli political leader, in India early this month.

DB sources said Aslam's passport had already been seized and his travel

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

24/7 watch on online activity

New govt project aims to curb cyber crimes; experts fear it may end up posing threat to privacy, free speech

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government plans to shell out Tk 150.51 crore for a project to tackle growing cyber threats by monitoring people's online and social media activities round-the-clock.

While the establishment of the network will assist law enforcement agencies in tracking criminal activities, it will hand enormous power to the government to establish control over people's online activity. It may encroach on citizens' private life.

Under the project, a centre called Cyber Threat Detection and Response Network will be set up.

Officials linked with the project said the network would empower the government to remove any contents and even block any sites anytime. It will also track people's activities online.

The telecom department will control the system and act on behalf of the government, said officials.

Under the system, all international internet gateways will be connected with the network and a team will monitor online activities round-the-clock.

The system will also identify the users who use private internet protocol, project documents show.

The draft of the project has already been sent to the Planning Commission for review, said Md Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, secretary of the Telecom Division.

"Misuse of information technology is happening frequently in the country, creating chaos. We are very hopeful

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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