



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

PLUS 8 PAGES 4 COLOUR SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE MOMENTUM IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
RABIUL AWAL 17, 1438 HJRI

"Practise democracy instead of playing tricks to grab state power."

PM SHEIKH HASINA TELLS BNP



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXVI No. 328

POUSH 4, 1423 BS

20 PAGES PRICE : Tk 12.00

## Textbooks not up to the mark

Inadequacies, teachers' inability drive students to pvt coaching, guidebooks

"The government has been trying relentlessly to reform the education system ... Quality teachers and textbooks remain the main challenges."

NURUL ISLAM NAHID  
EDUCATION MINISTER

"Children have too many subjects. All teachers put emphasis on the subject they teach. Amid such pressure, children fail to learn the basics."

FIDA HOSSAIN  
A TEACHER AT MOTUHEEL  
IDEAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Ishaan pulls out three books on Bangladesh and Global Studies, as he explains how he has been preparing for his final exams in class-VI.

Two of them are actually guidebooks which he says are must-read study materials for excelling in the subject.

The 12-year-old boy, who lives in the capital's Tikatuli, was first advised to read guidebooks as early as class-III. And the advice came from none other than his school teachers and private tutors at home.

With the passing of each academic level, he says, he grows more dependent on guidebooks.

This is not a picture unique to Ishaan.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Guidebooks for PSC and JSC students, which were banned by the government, are being taken to shops from a press in Sutrapur of Dhaka.

PHOTO: FILE

## I got upazila chairman 'elected'

Audio clip discloses Natore MP's role in 2014 election

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

A ruling party lawmaker of Natore yesterday said he had to do a lot of things to make his party-backed candidate winner though the contestant had actually lost the 2014 upazila elections.

Shafiqul Islam Shimul, Awami League lawmaker from Natore-2, claimed that he influenced the administration on the election day to get the candidate winner.

"In Natore Sadar upazila election, I made Shariful Islam Ramjan winner by 137 votes. Ramjan had lost but I got him elected," he said.

The lawmaker came up with the statements at a meeting with elected representatives of his constituency

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



## More than farming

*Physically-challenged man finds relief and solvency in mushrooms*

AZIBOR RAHMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Despite a tendency to shun sunlight, there's nothing humble about mushrooms. Fat and cholesterol free, they are a good source of nutrients including selenium, potassium, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin D and

CHANGE MAKER

more. To any dinner plate, mushrooms must be a welcome addition. But for physically-impaired Mamunur Rashid Joarder, 45, from Mandartala village in Jhenidah's Harinakundo upazila, mushrooms are far more.

Mushrooms are his livelihood. They bring him solvency and means to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## EC REFORM DIALOGUE TODAY BNP to talk also on polls-time govt

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The president's talks with political parties on the formation of a new Election Commission starts today amid hopes of a stronger and impartial EC.

Led by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, a 13-member delegation of the party would have a views-exchange meeting with President Abdul Hamid around 4:30pm at the Bangabhaban today.

Party sources said Khaleda would put

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## COMMENTARY

## In search of an acceptable EC

BNP should be realistic, AL accommodative

MAHFUZ ANAM

President Abdul Hamid will start his dialogue with BNP in order to constitute a new Election Commission due in early February acceptable to the major political parties, primarily meaning the AL and the BNP. So the President has a tough task in hand. Will he succeed? The answer really lies with the Prime Minister because our constitution clearly states that on every

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## The Dream Structure is Rising in The Horizon and a Beautiful Tomorrow Beckons...



Proud Construction Partner of  
**Padma Bridge Project**

*Born to Build*

**SHAH  
CEMENT**