

ENGLISH DEBATE CONTEST

**Viqarunnisa, NSU, Sunbeams become champions**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Viqarunnisa Noon School, North South University (NSU) and Sunbeams School emerged as champions in the 5th English Inter School, Inter Club and 2nd Children's Debate Championship 2006 that ended yesterday.

Sunbeams became champion in the children's debate while Viqarunnisa School and North South University became champions in the inter school and inter club debates respectively.

Viqarunnisa Noon Debating Club and The Daily Star jointly organised the weeklong debate festival with the slogan 'Miles to go before I sleep'.

Vice-Chancellor of North South University Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqui attended the closing ceremony of the festival as the chief guest and distributed awards among the winners.

Each participant also received a certificate while Viqarunnisa Noon School, Mastermind School and Dhaka University Debating Society received the 'Best Discipline Award.'

The practice of debate in society helps the young generation to become sophisticated and enlightened, the speakers said at the closing session at the auditorium of Viqarunnisa Noon School.

To understand life properly, one must have the ability to explore the inner quality, Dr Hafiz said, adding that the debaters can express their thoughts with comprehensive analysis and are able to take criticism positively.

Shameem Jahan Ahsan, moderator of Viqarunnisa Noon Debating Club, expressed gratitude to The Daily Star for its cooperation and all the participating institutions and the judges.

The podium of debate is a platform for creating efficient citizens and the debate festival will help students become enlightened and confident citizens, she said.

Describing the debate as modern art and the debaters as modern artists, the speakers said the ability to properly express one's thoughts is very important in this age of globalisation.

Principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College Rowena Hossain chaired the closing ceremony. Headmistress of the school section Mahmuda Begum, Principal of Sunbeams School Nilufar Manjur, Chairman of National Debate Federation AKM Shoab, former secretary general of Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) Abdun Noor Tushar, and BDF President Tasin Ahmed were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the 5th English Inter School, Inter Club and 2nd Children's Debate Championship 2006 pose with the guests at the closing session of the debate festival at the Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the city yesterday.

**Two crore people suffer from kidney diseases**

BDNEWS, Dhaka

About two crore people suffer from kidney diseases in the country and 85 percent of them are deprived of treatment, which is highly expensive.

Expressing their concern, kidney specialists yesterday said that at least 95 percent of kidney diseases can be prevented through controlling throat pain, skin disease known as nephritis, diabetes and blood pressure.

The country does not have adequate kidney experts, particularly urologist, they said, adding that there is one urologist for every 20 lakh people.

They were speaking at a discussion organised by the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology (NIKDU) in the city on the occasion of NIKDU Day.

Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the NIKDU would be turned into a centre of excellence through

developing its activities.

He also assured that the demands for staff quarters, dormitory and auditorium of NIKDU would be met soon under the

**Supreme Court Bar election ends**

UNB, Dhaka

The election of the Supreme Court Bar Association ended peacefully yesterday.

A total of 1,465, out of 1,624, voters cast their votes to elect the Association's 14-member executive committee for 2006-07, the SCBA election commission sources said.

Advocate Nizamul Huq Nasim, head of the seven-member election commission, said counting of votes will begin after Magrib prayers.

government's Health Nutrition and Population programme.

The country would also get more kidney experts after the introduction of post-graduate course at the institute, he added.

Prevention is ten times better than cure, the minister said, adding that about 85 percent of kidney patients could not afford dialysis.

Prof Jahangir Kabir, director of NIKDU, said some 70 patients receive treatment at the 116-bed institute hospital every day, which was inaugurated on December 28, 2003.

Prof MA Hadi, vice-chancellor of the BSMMU and president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, secretary general of BMA, and Dr Khandaker Shefayat Ullah, acting director of Health Directorate, also spoke on the occasion.

The discussion was followed by a scientific session.

**Rab launches crackdown on outlaws, two PBCP men held**

STAR REPORT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two members of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), including a regional leader, yesterday on the first day of its crackdown on underground outlaws in the southwestern districts.

Rab arrested Abdus Salam Nilu, regional leader of PBCP (Janajuddho) in Rajbari along with a pipe gun and ammunitions and Kalu Khan, a top cadre of the same faction, from his house in Meherpur.

Five others were also arrested during the operation, sources said.

Rab started the operation from Wednesday night mainly in four districts - Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah and Kushtia- to mop up the extremists, a Rab official said.

He said, however, Rab vigilance has been intensified in all other districts of Khulna division and Rajbari and Faridpur districts of Dhaka division.

Some 62 people, including the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League activists, and outlaws were killed in the districts since January this year.

**JCD leader succumbs to injuries**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Morshed Khan Ejaz succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The unidentified criminals sprayed bullets on Ejaz, 26, joint

secretary of JCD Motijheel thana unit, while he was taking tea at a roadside teastall in front of his residence at Shajahanpur in the city at around 11:15am on Tuesday.

Ejaz, also an undergraduate student of a private university, was rushed to the DMCH with eight

bullets in his legs.

Police suspect Ejaz, was attacked due to a feud in his group.

The family member received the body after autopsy at DMCH.

Father of Ejaz has filed a case with the Motijheel Police Station in this connection.