

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 14, 2004

KG school business booms

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Kindergarten (KG) schools have mushroomed in the port city of Chittagong and its adjoining areas mainly for business purposes.

The growth of KG schools was due to inadequate number of government primary schools and shortage of seats in the city of 40 lakh people.

There are 156 government primary schools, 15 registered primary schools and 27 community schools in the city, according to the district Primary Education Department. Around 2 lakh students study in these schools. Around 70,000 children become eligible to admit themselves to orientation classes a year. But, these institutions have a capacity to accommodate only 40,000 a year.

Shortage of government schools resulted in the mushrooming of KG schools in the city to take the advantage of earning a great deal of money, sources said.

These schools have no affiliation with the education department.

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Most of the schools sit in rented tiny buildings at every corner of the city.

The number of KG schools in the city is over 150, education office sources said. Though the number is more than that of the

ness is being expanded day by day. Syeda Sanjida Tasnim, a guardian, said, "The expenditure of education, including admission fee, tuition fee, dress fee and other materials are very high."

"I have paid Tk 1200 for admission of my child in KG-1. Apart from it, I paid Tk 150 as monthly

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government statistics. Only 22 have registrations. Thousands of children cannot appear in the junior scholarship examinations as these schools run without any registration.

Besides, there is no government supervision on the schools.

The profitable education busi-

fee, Tk 60 for examination, Tk 50 for sports, Tk 50 for library and Tk 50 for scouts," she added.

Financial stability of guardians is considered as the lone qualification for admission of their kids in some reputed school, sources said.

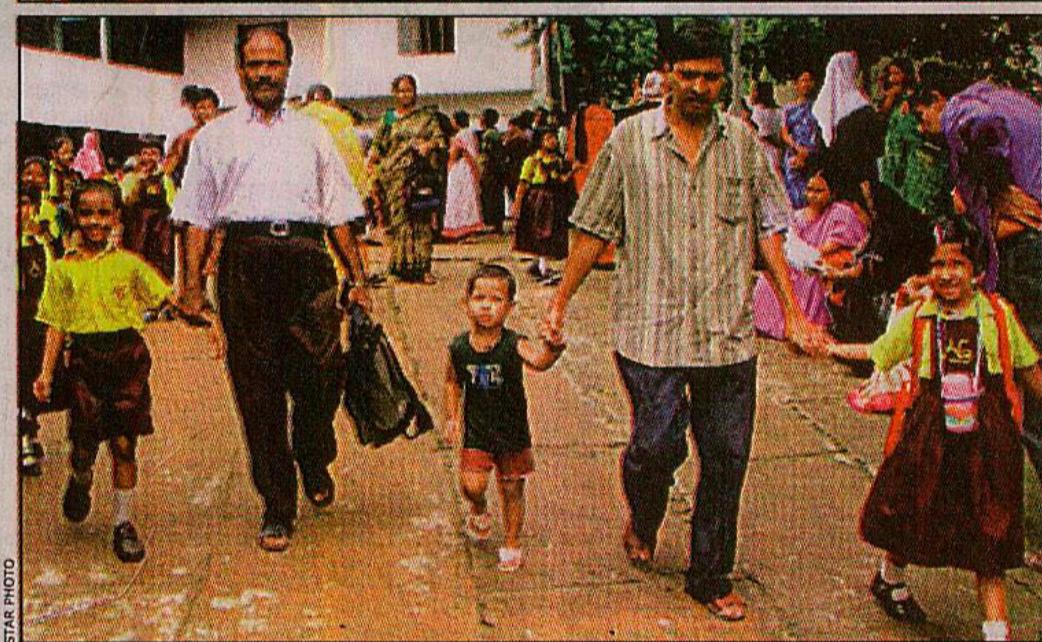
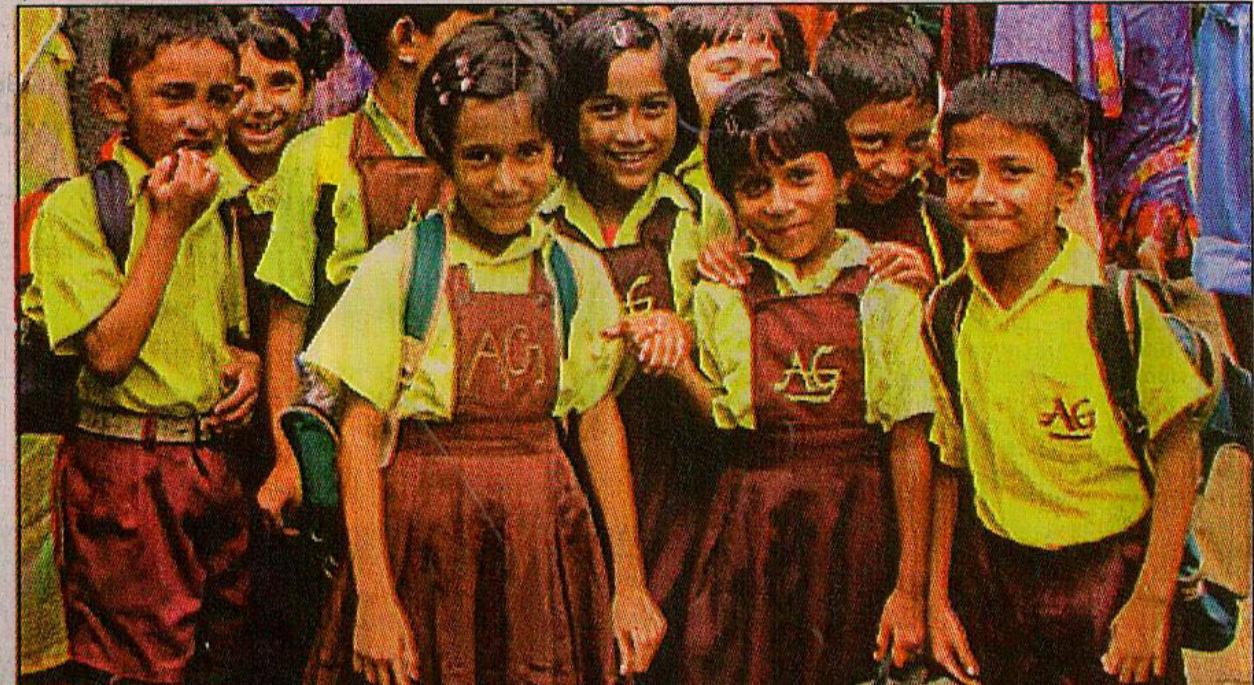
The KG schools do not follow integrated syllabus. They have

their respective syllabus prepared by the school authorities. But, most of them follow some textbooks including Bengali and Mathematics that are taught in the government primary schools.

Students of the government primary schools get all books free of cost while the KG schools purchase those from black markets ignoring the government directive. Later, the KG school authorities sell those to their students at high rate, sources said. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education directed the authorities not to provide any government primary textbooks to the KG schools.

The students cram into the congested classrooms at the KG schools. Most of them have no playgrounds.

An education officer seeking anonymity told this correspondent that nothing happens in the KG schools except business. "Government should impose restriction on setting up of KG schools and formulate a policy on it to ensure quality education," he added.



The kids appear all smiles as they are among the few luckiest children who succeeded in getting admitted to one of the leading kindergarten schools. The pictures were taken from AG Church School at Jamal Khan in the city.

Human chain demanding safe road



Female students of local schools joined in the 45-km human chain on the Dhaka-Chittagong road spontaneously.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 45km human chain, the ever longest of its kind in the district as well as in the country, was formed on the Dhaka-Chittagong road at Sitakunda here on Saturday demanding "safe roads".

Around 40,000 people from all walks of life participated in the human chain stretching from city end of Sitakunda upazila at City Gate area to Mirersarai end at Darogarhat defying rains.

Nirapad Sarak Bastabayan Committee convenor actor Ilias Kanchon, BNP lawmaker, Engineer Iqbal Siddiqui, former AL lawmaker Abul Kasem Master, Sitakunda Municipality Chairman Abul Kalam Azad and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohibul Haq participated in the programme that started at 10.30am.

Sitakunda Upazila Parishad organised the human chain to create awareness about the road accidents among the people.

During the human chain street rallies were held at Barobkunda, Banshbaria, Kumira, Baraulia, Bhatiary, Faujderhat and City Gate areas of Sitakunda, an accident-prone part of Dhaka-Chittagong road.

CPA plans mock security exercise once in 3 months

NURUL ALAM

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) will hold mock security exercise by creating an artificial crime scenario inside the protected areas once in three months.

The plan was taken to alert the port personnel on how to combat terrorist attacks on ships and port facilities, officials said.

CPA took the plan to implement the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code at Chittagong port from July 1 to comply with the order of International Maritime Organisation (IMO), they added.

Against the backdrop of Twin Tower incident of September 11, 2001, IMO ordered all the ports of its member countries across

the world to implement ISPS code with a view to enhancing security measures for port facilities and ships engaged in maritime trade.

Kamrul Hossain, member (Operation) of the CPA, said,

"We have taken a lot of precautions now from security point of view at the port to ensure implementation of ISPS code from July 1. We maintain a restriction with check-lists at all the jetties and gates and keep watch over the ocean-going vessels which call here and even check the visitors into the ships".

"We do not allow any transport to stay near the vessels anchored at the jetties berths."

Kamrul, also convenor of ISPS code implementation committee of Chittagong port, said, "We are trying to procure some modern logistics including vessel identification equipment and video camera system, to step up surveillance over the port area," he said.

"So in order to keep our people involved in the port operation, alert and aware we have planned to organise mock security exercise at different points of the port just to ascertain their preparedness to combat crimes," he said.

"We want to see through mock exercise how the people concerned react to face in case of any terrorist attack here. If we find any lapse we will do our best to correct and improve the preparedness," Kamrul added.

"During mock show we will create scenario to match possi-

ble nature of terrorist acts occurring in the country," he said. "We have organised such a mock exercise at the baggage shed of Chittagong port on June 30 creating an artificial scenario of bomb scare."

"We observed reaction of the people concerned at the baggage shed and would hold such a programme at least once in three months here."

Sarwar Shahid, Director (Security) at Chittagong port, said, "I acted as the Director General of Shipping at June 30 mock show and observed reaction of the port people during the bomb scare."

"We need more mock shows here to create full awareness about security measures in case of terrorist acts," he said.

Project profile of veterinary varsity submitted to PM

A project profile containing the outline and justification for upgrading Chittagong Government Veterinary College (CGVC) to a university was submitted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Friday through Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman.

Chittagong Veterinary University Implementation Committee (CVUIC) President Md. Yusuf Chowdhury, also the chairman of the Purbokone Limited, handed over the project profile to Noman at a ceremony at CGVC auditorium.

Noman said that turning CGVC into a university as per the outline of the project profile could benefit not only Chittagong but also the whole country.

Tree fair ends

A fortnight long tree fair organised by the Chittagong South Forest Division at Lalbagh Maidan ended on Friday.

Addressing the closing ceremony as the chief guest Fisheries and Livestock Minister Md. Nazrul Islam said that the country at present had only 7 per cent forestland as against the minimum requirement of 25 per cent of its total land area.

He called upon the people for planting at least one tree each to fill up the

vacuum of forestland and help alleviate poverty. He also urged the people to participate in the government initiated social and afforestation programme.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafur Islam Chowdhury was the special guest. Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Md. Shafiqul Islam presided.

BATB to distribute 15 lakh saplings

British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) on Saturday launched a five-day programme to distribute 15 lakh saplings to the farmers in greater Chittagong region.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafur Islam Chowdhury inaugurated the sapling distribution as a part of BATB's countrywide afforestation programme at Lala Upazila in Bandarban.

Roundtable on budget

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Md. Nasir Uddin said the budget for the current financial year aimed at balanced development of the country.

The statements demanding separate allocation for Chittagong were meant for creating confusion among the people as there was no scope for making any

regional allocation in the national budget, he said.

Mir Nasir was addressing as the chief guest at a roundtable conference titled "National budget in the light of development and economy" here on Thursday.

Chittagong Mohanagar Gono Oikya Parishad organised the roundtable at the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) auditorium.

Economist Prof. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad presented the keynote paper with Parishad convenor Prof. Dr. Md. Shamshuddin in the chair.

Malaysian team meets CSE chief

A delegation from Multi Media University (MMU) of Malaysia led by Salahuddin Kashem Khan, Managing Director of AK Khan Group, visited Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) here on Wednesday.

During the visit the delegation called on CSE President Habibur Khan and proposed him to help set up a management institute.

CCC to set up container workshop

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has planned to set up a modern inland

container yard and container repairing workshop involving a preliminary cost of Tk 40 crore.

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said this at a meeting with the CCC engineers here on Thursday.

He said that when set up it would be the first container yard and workshop to repair containers in the country and save lot of foreign exchange.

The project to be implemented on six acres of land will be finalised within two months, he said.

Dutch-Bangla aid for disabled children

Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation donated Tk 2 lakh for the Children's Unit of Nurture Disabled Rehabilitation Centre of Uttar Halishahar in the city on Friday.

Managing Director of the bank Md. Yesmin Ali handed over the cheque for the money to Nurture's Co-ordinator Nasrin Bakht at a ceremony.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation Chairman Dr. Md. Zafarul Islam, Nurture Chairman Barrister Salimul Haq Khan Milky, Director Engineer Enamul Bakri, Sunshine Grammar School Principal Safia Rahman and Chittagong Grammar School (CGS) Chairman Bilkis Dada were present.

The unit will offer residential treat-

ment to 10 disabled children attacked with cerebral palsy.

Reception to GPA-5 achievers

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) accorded a reception to GPA-5 achievers of this year SSC examination on the CJKS gymnasium hall premises in the city on Monday.

A total of 1220 students including 932 from 29 schools were accorded reception along with those who obtained mayor junior scholarship last year.

Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan, 2nd from left, hands over a crest to Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, 3rd from left, at a reception ceremony. State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafur Islam Chowdhury, extreme right, and Jilani Complex President Md. Syed Molnuddin Ahmad Al Hasani, extreme left, are also seen.

Pepsodent-Drishty debate begins

A five-day Pepsodent-Drishty Inter-school Parliament Debate Competition began in the city on Monday.

Drishty, an educational and cultural organisation, organised the debate competition at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium under the auspices of Lever Brothers Bangladesh Limited.

Fourteen schools will participate in the debate.

Chittagong Education Board Chairman Professor AJM Shahidullah was the chief guest while Lever Brothers Bangladesh Limited General Manager (Factory) Hasan Zafar Chowdhury inaugurated the competition.

And this commitment helps them play more effective role in nation building, he added.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafur Islam Chowdhury and Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury were the special guests. Twelve personalities were accorded reception for their contributions in their respective fields.

He was addressing a reception as the chief guest organised by Jilani Complex Bangladesh, an Islamic and social organisation, at a local hotel here on Saturday.

Morshed Khan said that reception to worthy personalities makes them more committed to their pioneering role in different social and welfare activities.

They are ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Professor Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Dr. Monzoor Morshed Mahmud, Barrister

Mirza Salman Ispahani, Mizanur Rahman, Muhammad Ahsanul Islam, M. Morshed Ali, SM Shafi, Begum Runu Siddiqui and Moula Syed Molnuddin Ahmad Al Hasani.

Jilani Complex Chairman Principal Alhaj ANM Delwar Hossain Al Quaderi gave the address of welcome while PHP Group Chairman Alhaj Mizanur Rahman, Professor Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam and Hotel Agrabad Chariman Alhaj AHM Khorshed Ali also spoke with Moula Syed Molnuddin Ahmad Al Hasani in the chair.

Reception to 12 personalities

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