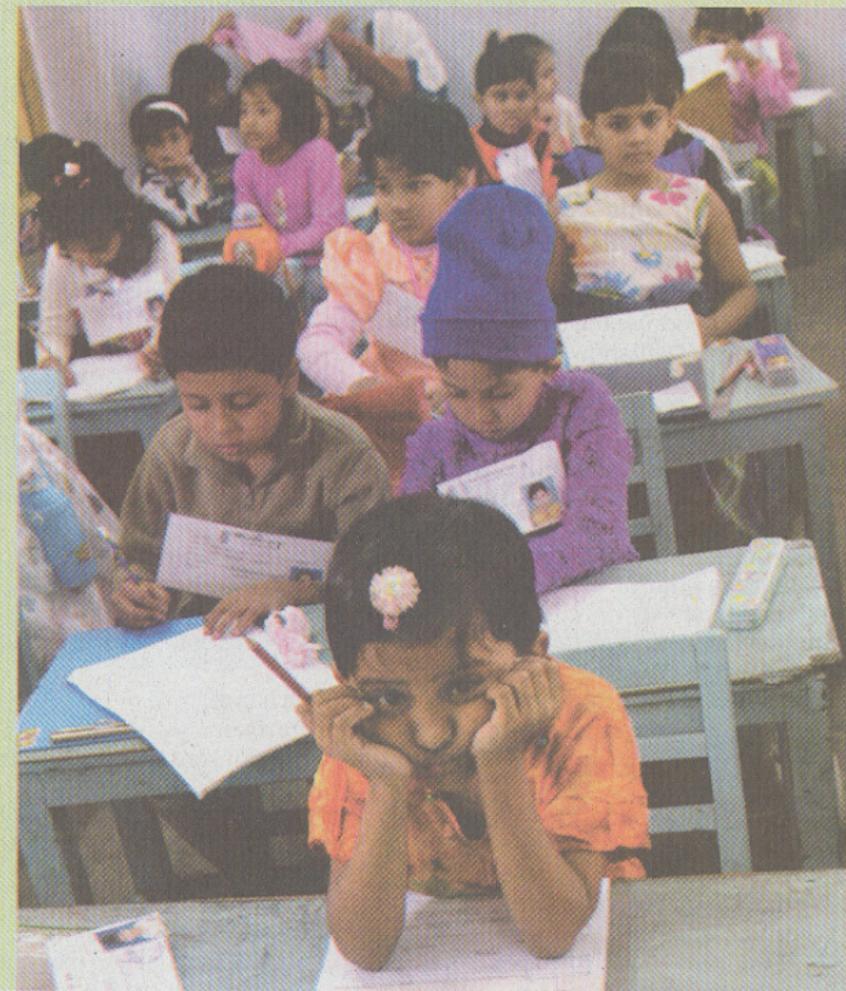


NEWS NOTES



January--the cruellest month

JANUARY is the cruellest month for parents who are considering getting their children admitted to schools, or to good school to be more appropriate. Schools were never scarce in the city, but schools where parents want to send their children are certainly few. In the list of the schools that are generally believed to be good both private and government schools figure and since government schools are far cheaper than the other variety, they naturally attract a large number of applicants. This year some 38,218 admission seekers are competing for a total of 8,591 seats at 24 government schools. It means, each seat will have five competitors. The scarcity of reasonably good schools become glaring during the first week of January when the huge contingent of parents and guardians crowd along the school gates shivering in the cold and learning wearily how less prepared their five-year-old kid is in comparison with most of his competitors. While this stiff competition is a one-time experience for some, the larger number has another year and then perhaps yet another year of cold, anxiety and uncertainty before them. The number of worrying parents waiting outside the school gates in the first week of cold January, however, grows bigger every year.