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-Noor Mohammed (from Dhaka), 12th May 2008

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## DRUG ABUSE INCREASING IN BOGRA

## 30 drug-addicted children died in five years

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

The number of drug addicts, specially among the children of day labourers, is increasing in the Bogra town, but the authorities remain indifferent.

Some 107 drug addicts, including 30 children, died in Katnarpura, Chelopara and Sultanganjpara areas in the last five years, according to a survey conducted by Programme for Eco-Social Development (PESD), a local NGO.

Most of the drug addicts in these areas come from poor families and are also involved in drug peddling. At least 75 people, including 47 children, have been selling heroin, Phensidyl and hemp openly in these areas, said Mahfuz Ara Miva, executive director, PESD.

"Several lists of drug peddlers and addicts were handed over to the local administration, but no action has yet been taken against them," Miva said.

When contacted, district

administration officials admitted that drug abuse has increased in several areas in Bogra town and adjacent Sherpur upazila recently.

The PESD survey report reveals that most drug-addicted children are under the age of 14 years.

Uzzal, 13, and Azizul, 12, are two of the four drug-addicted children in Katnarpura area who died in the last three years.

Uzzal's mother Moziron, 40, said her son started to take heroin when he was only five years old as other children of the area induced him to do so.

Lily, 50, mother of Azizul, said her son started to take heroin at the age of eight.

She also said her husband died broken-hearted at the death of their son.

PESD sources said that more than 58 children have been taking heroin and other drugs three to four times a day. They collect the money for it by selling their household articles.

Sumon, 14, a heroin-addicted boy in Chalksutrappur area, said he started taking the drug two years ago.

Now he needs Tk 200 daily to buy heroin and he resorts to petty theft to obtain the money.

Alim 12, of the same area, said he has been taking heroin since he was nine years old.

Tuni, 30, wife of Sanowar of Katnarpura, said she has to provide money to her 14-year-old son Tutul, who is a heroin addict.



Ramna Branch of SWID-Bangladesh celebrates the Bangla New Year and the 147th birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore at Alamgir MA Kabir auditorium in the city recently. Former adviser Rokia Afzal Rahman, second from left, and Director General of Channel-1 Ali Imam, second from right, were present.

## SWID-Bangladesh celebrates Tagore's birth anniversary

Ramna Branch, SWID-Bangladesh celebrated the Bangla New Year and the 147th birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore in a befitting manner at Alamgir MA Kabir auditorium in the city recently.

Former adviser Rokia Afzal Rahman was the chief guest at the programme while Director General of Channel-1 Ali Imam was the special guest.

The mentally challenged students of Ramna Branch, SWID-Bangladesh performed dances, rendered songs and recited poems at the programme that acclaimed wide applause.

Rokia Afzal Rahman assured the management of Ramna Branch, SWID-Bangladesh of her cooperation, whereas Ali Imam promised to help create awareness about intellectual disability through television.

Ramna Branch, SWID-Bangladesh is playing a key role in the education and training of the intellectually disabled.

## BPSA conference on May 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conference of Bangladesh Political Science Association (BPSA) will be held at Sheraton Hotel in the city at 9:30 am on May 31.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

Members of the BPSA have been requested to register their names at Room No 1037 and 1050 at the BPSA office at Dhaka University Arts Building by May 28.

## Subarna Express to run today

BSS, Dhaka

The Subarna Express, which runs on the Dhaka-Chittagong-Dhaka route, will also ply on the weekly holiday today (Friday) to facilitate the movement of the passengers, a press release of the Bangladesh Railway said.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) in the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

## British survey vessel arrives in Ctg Sunday

UNB, Dhaka

HMS ECHO, a survey vessel of the UK's Royal Navy, is due to arrive in Chittagong Port on Sunday, heralding the first visit by a Royal Navy ship to Bangladesh since the late 1990s.

The 3600-tonne Survey Vessel (Hydrographic and Oceanographic) has a crew of approximately 48 men and women. It is due to be berthed in Chittagong at the end of May, prior to moving on to the Far East, said a British High Commission release.

Lt Col Philip Spicer, defence adviser at the British High Commission in Dhaka, said, "This visit is a special one. It will provide a unique opportunity for some joint collaborative training between the Bangladesh Navy and their UK counterparts. Added to this, it also renews a deep-rooted historical tie and furthers the defence engagement between our two nations."

Commanding Officer of the ship Commander Jeremy Churcher RN said, "We are delighted to be able to work alongside the Bangladesh Navy, learning from each others experiences and developing a better understanding of the challenging environment in which they work."

Following the ship's arrival in Chittagong, Commander Churcher will also meet key Bangladeshi naval and port chiefs, before some of his crew take a break ashore and enjoy some friendly sports matches arranged between the local Bangladesh Navy teams from the naval dockyard and the naval academy, BNS Issa Khan.

## 14 fishermen return home from India after serving 18 months in Jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Fourteen Bangladeshi fishermen yesterday returned to the country after serving eight months in Indian jail.

They got stranded on the Indian maritime boundary after a violent storm.

BSF personnel handed them over to their BDR counterparts after finishing legal procedures yesterday afternoon, BDR sources said.

The returnees are Shahid Sikder, 28, Abu Kalam, 40, Ahid Mollah, 30, Mohammad Harun, 32, Nur Alam, 35, Shiraj, 24, Yousof, 22, Abu Kalam, 28, Abdur Rahim, 40, Zamil Hossain, 30, Zafar Ahmed, 28, Firoz Alam, 21, Alauddin, 36, and Akter Hossain, 22.

Of them Kalam, Ahid, Harun, Nur Alam and Shiraj are of Baranadi village in Bhola and the rest are of Char Folkon village at Ramgati upazilla in Lakshadweep.

The fishermen were fishing in Cox's Bazar when they were hit by a violent storm and went into the Indian maritime boundary where they were arrested by the Indian Coast Guard members, sources added.

After serving eight months in Alipur Jail, they got back to the home land.

Meanwhile, an Indian citizen Tarikul Mollah, 33, who served six years and a half in a Bangladeshi jail, was handed over to BSF yesterday at Benapole check post.

The Indian national was arrested by BDR men while he was migrating illegally to the country through Shatkhira border.

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Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center.

Last Date of Registration : May 25, 2008

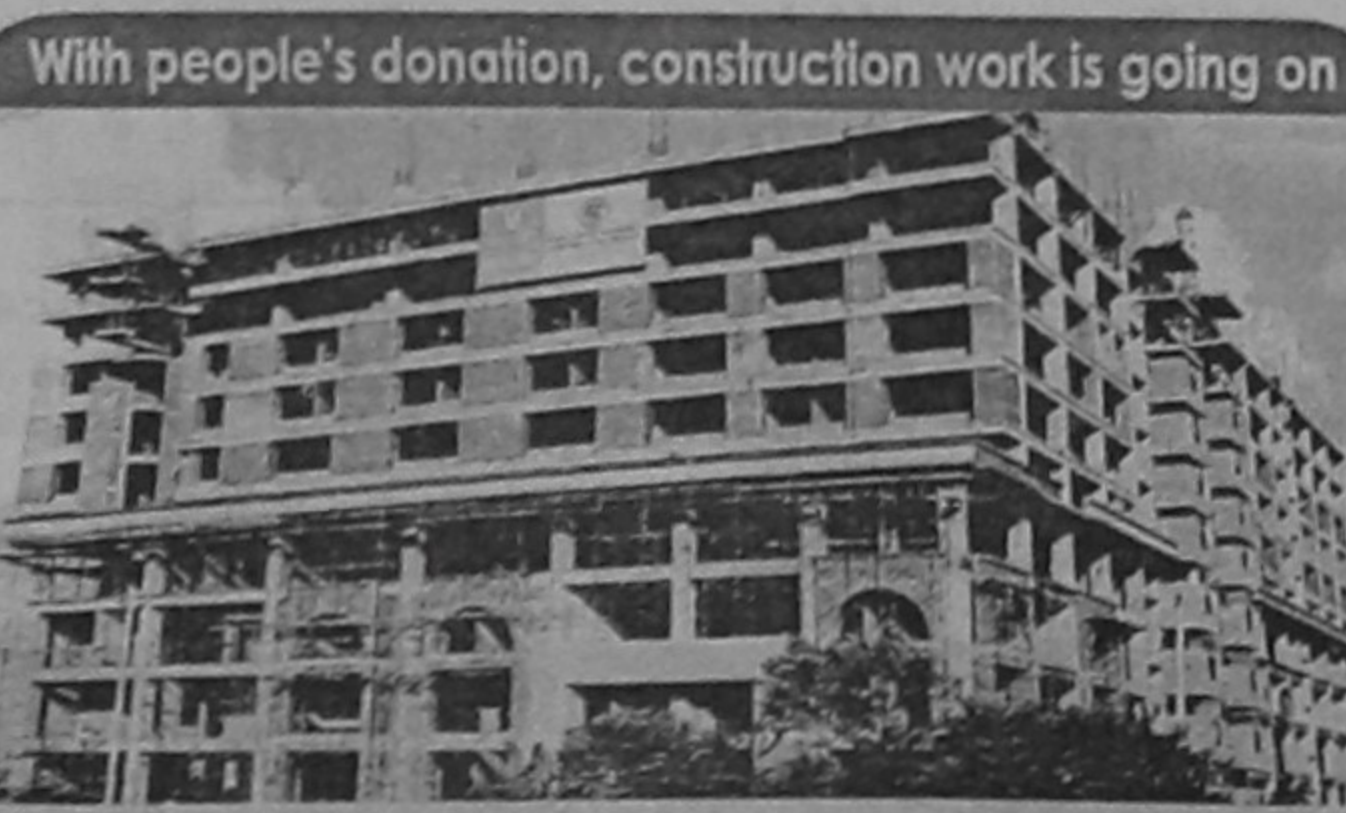
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## Master's Programs:

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Last Date of Admission  
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Without participation by all of you, this gigantic project is tough to complete. Please contact immediately.

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## Saturday 31 May 2008

Bashundhara Expo Centre, Level-7, Seminar Hall  
Bashundhara City, Panthapath, DhakaRegistration at Pathmark Associates (Fee: TK.100/-)  
Starts from 24th May to 30th May 2008

## SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

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## English Language Proficiency

TEST	Bachelor's Degree Required Score	Master's Degree Required Score
IELTS	6.0	6.5
TOEFL (paper based)	550	570
TOEFL (computer based)	213	230
TOEFL (internet based)	79	88

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