

# Science Olympiad in December

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) is going to launch 'Science Olympiad' across the country in order to make the students more interested in science education.  
 The Olympiad will be held at the Olympiad and national levels in two groups - junior group (from class VI-VIII) and secondary group (class IX-X), said Prof Mohammad Kaykobad, coordinator of Science Olympiad 2009-2010, at a press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday.  
 At the divisional level, the Olympiad will be held on the second Friday of December every year while National Science Olympiad will be held on second Friday of January the following year, he said.  
 He said they are expecting the Science Olympiad to make junior students more interested to get them admitted into science streams whereas in secondary level it will discourage science students to

opt for other disciplines while pursuing higher education.  
 Kaykobad said in these Olympiads the capability of the students in explaining everyday events using scientific theories will be tested.  
 The problems to be set in the Olympiad will be consistent with the course and will demand ability to apply scientific knowledge in solving problems.  
 The mission of Science Olympiad is to develop skilled manpower in science and technology and recognise both students and teachers who achieve excellence in scientific education.  
 President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Prof M Shamsheer Ali said no initiative has yet been taken to find out talented students with an affinity for science. This is the first of its kind, he added.  
 Secretary to Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Prof Naiyem Choudhury and noted academic and writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal also spoke.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) stages a demonstration in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday protesting filling up of Banani-Mohakhali lake. It also demanded that all illegal establishments there be demolished.

## Children's festival held

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Dano Kidz Camp, a festival for children, was held in the city yesterday.  
 RESSKETCT, a creative consulting firm in association with Maker Communication organised the camp at St Joseph Higher Secondary School.  
 Sponsored by Arla Foods and ABC Radio, such camp was organised for the first time to familiarise children with the traditional form of entertainment.  
 The daylong programme including drawing pictures, kite flying, puppet show and monkey dance which was enjoyed by some 800 children.  
 RESSKETCT Executive Head Iqbal Hossain told The Daily Star that they have plan to arrange such programme once in a month in the city and later it will be expanded to divisional cities.  
 "Children were very excited for being able to fly kites, release balloons and had their portrayed sketched by the professional artists.  
 Most of the children participated in the programme are from the capital. Children from Savar and Chittagong also took part in it.

## Auditing taxpayers' files starts after couple of years

**UNB, Dhaka**  
 The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has started auditing the taxpayers' files after a lapse of a couple of years.  
 The government in the budget for fiscal 2006-07 curtailed the discretionary powers of the Deputy Commissioners of Tax (DCTs) to ask anything about the file of an individual taxpayer as the universal self-assessment system was adopted.  
 Under the system, there was a provision for auditing tax files, but the DCTs had to take prior permission from the NBR in this regard after submitting proper documents.  
 As the process was found complicated, the DCTs showed their reluctance to submit documents in favour of audit.  
 "But the DCTs found out that many individual taxpayers were evading taxes under the self-assessment system and that's why they've started applying to the NBR to audit individual tax files," an NBR official told UNB.  
 He said some DCTs identified that a good number of individual taxpayers are evading taxes taking advantage of the universal self-assessment system.  
 "They've identified many people who had long been paying reasonable amount of tax regularly suddenly started paying less amount of tax."  
 When these incidents were brought to the notice of NBR higher authorities, the DCTs were given permission to audit the dubious tax files.  
 Currently, there are around 8 lakh people paying taxes although the number of taxpayers' identification numbers (TINs) is more than 24 lakh.  
 "NBR now wants to increase the income tax base as well as boost the revenue collection from the existing taxpayers. To generate more revenues from the existing taxpayers, the NBR has no option other than conducting audit in the income tax files," he said.  
 Finance Minister AMA Muhith recently hinted that the revenue target for fiscal 2009-10 would not be less than Tk 60,000 crore.



Children participate in a festival at the Dano Kidz Camp at St Joseph Higher Secondary School in the city yesterday.

# Women should unite to ensure equal rights

Says Prof Bina Agarwal

**DU CORRESPONDENT**  
 Noted Indian economist Prof Bina Agarwal has said collective action is necessary to remove the gender inequality and ensure equal rights and status of women in society.  
 She said women in Southeast Asian countries should be united to eliminate discrimination against them and realise their equal rights in their families, working places, societies and states.  
 Bina made the remarks while delivering a lecture on 'Gender inequality: Neglected dimensions, hidden facts and new alliances' at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhawan at Dhaka University on Wednesday.  
 Department of Women and Gender Studies organised the

event which was moderated by Lecturer Tania Haque.  
 Prof Bina in her one-hour lecture with a slide presentation showed the audience various discrimination against women which are going on in the south-east countries, particularly India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.  
 She also discussed various social and economic issues and state of women in these countries. She made a comparative analysis regarding gender inequality among underdeveloping countries in south-east region and developed countries in the west.  
 In her presentation, Prof Bina drew attention on how property-less women in the south-east Asian countries face violence in their families, societies and workplaces.

## Devotees, police clash at Keraniganj 20 injured

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 At least 20 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between police and devotees at South Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital over recovering grabbed land of a mosque.  
 Witnesses said over 500 Muslim devotees from four to five nearby mosques went to Kaliganj Bazar Baro Masjid area after Juma prayers to recover a piece of its land grabbed by a group of people for constructing a market.  
 As devotees tried to break down some shops near the grabbed land, police prevented them from doing it and the clash ensued.  
 "We resorted to baton charge when the devotees vandalised seven to eight shops near the mosque. At one stage, devotees hurled stones at police, leaving three policemen injured," said Nirupul Dey, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Keraniganj police station.  
 "The mosque is around 50 years old. Grabbers have been trying to grab the land of the mosque over the years. Some locals managed to grab it by erecting a wall with the help of mosque caretaker Harun-ur Rashid on May 22 this year," said Mukter Hossain, a devotee who resides beside the mosque.

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