

STAR-AKTEL INITIATIVE

# 'English in Schools' to prepare students for global challenges

*Educationists tell orientation meeting*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The 'English in Schools' (EIS) initiative, jointly launched by The Daily Star and AKTEL, will help students learn English properly and prepare them for global challenges, academics said at its orientation meeting yesterday.

EIS will also enable the schoolchildren at secondary level to develop a reading habit and broaden their knowledge base, they said.

Prof Nani Gopal Das, principal of Government Barisal BM College, inaugurated the orientation meeting at Rangan Community Centre in the city yesterday.

Some 168 headmasters and English teachers of 84 schools from Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Barguna, Bhola and Pirojpur districts took part in the event.

In his inaugural address, Prof Nani Gopal said that as English language is the major source of knowledge, the habit of reading English newspapers will help establish a knowledge-based society.

Speaking as a special guest, Palash Kanti Bala, assistant commissioner (education and development) of Barisal, said many fail to scale the heights in the academic world due to language barrier and this programme would be helpful for them to cross this barrier.

Abdul Zabbar, headmaster of Salimullah Higher Secondary School of Barguna told The Daily Star that the initiative will help facilitate learning of English in rural schools.

"If the programme runs properly, I hope students can shake off their shyness about English and do very well in future," said Arun Kumar Shil, an assistant teacher of Pirojpur

Tapos Kumar Shil, a teacher of English at SB Government High School at Kawkhali under Pirojpur, said the initiative will not only increase students' language skill, but also improve their general knowledge and help them become good citizens.

AKTEL head of the region Mahabubul Hasan also spoke at the orientation moderated by Prof Shaheen Kabir of Jahangirnagar University.

Prof Kabir delivered a presentation on the special page on English language which will be distributed once a week along with The Daily Star.

Senior Assistant Editor of The Daily Star Shahnoor Wahid said most of the students fail in public examinations because of poor knowledge of English.

The habit of reading a standard English newspaper will help improve their English, he added.

On behalf of The Daily Star, Abu Masud Bulbul, circulation manager, and Sharif Shahid, in-charge of business deployment and marketing, were present at the orientation.

Under a three-year programme, three complimentary copies of The Daily Star will be distributed to each of the 84 schools in six districts of the division five days a week. Half of these institutions will be girls' high schools.

The Daily Star will bring out an extra page featuring helpful materials and discussions every week to help students learn English language. The page will also include organising contests on spelling, vocabulary and book reading.

The teachers will also be requested to use relevant newspaper articles and pages at the classrooms.



PHOTO: STAR  
Prof Shaheen Kabir speaks at an orientation meeting for the 'English in Schools' initiative jointly launched by The Daily Star and AKTEL. Teachers from different districts of Barisal division took part in the orientation meeting held at Rangan Community Centre in Barisal.

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## Wasa to open water-testing laboratory to public soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa will open its water-testing laboratory for all within a month where people would be able to test the purity of the water available at their residence at a token price.

Dhaka Wasa Board Chairman Engineer Golam Mostafa said this during a visit to the laboratory, a Dhaka WASA press release said.

Meanwhile, Managing Director of the Dhaka WASA

Md Shahjahan Ali asked the officials concerned to prepare a proposal for the work. He also said the laboratory would be upgraded very soon and be run commercially.

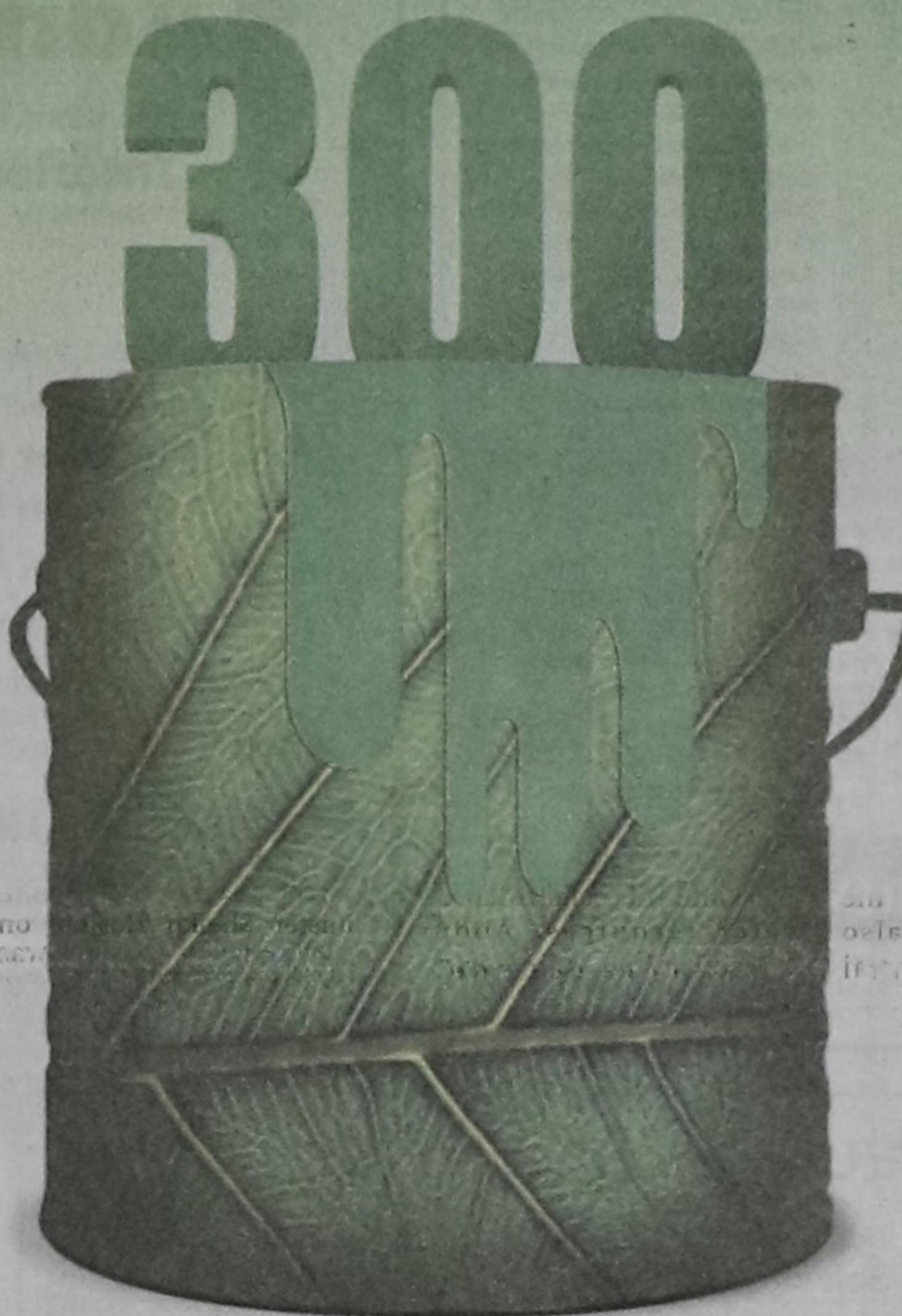
Laboratory officials said around 33 parameters of water can be tested at a time at the laboratory.

Later, they visited the temporary water pumping station at Rampura where around 55 water pumps were set up to address waterlogging during the monsoon.

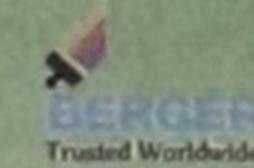


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5. The dresses and other items must be handed over to The Daily Star by July 14, 2009.
6. Per entry fee Tk. 200/- (minimum 3 entries for each participating house)

STAR GRAPHICS

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