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DEATH OF 26 CHILDREN

Order issued to nab Rid bosses

Govt's first legal step comes over a month after first death following paracetamol syrup intake

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and MAHBUBA ZANNAT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against the managing director of Rid Pharma Ltd, its two directors and two pharmacists after the government filed a case accusing them of manufacturing drugs that lacked specified standards.

A total of 26 children died across the country during the last month and a half due to renal failures, most of which were caused by intake of Rid's paracetamol syrup that contained poisonous chemicals.

This is the first legal step the government has taken against Rid.

"The government was rather slow in responding to the situation, while kids were dying. It took about a month to ban sale of the poisonous medicine and to order its withdrawal from the market. It is sad," one of the many worried parents in the capital told the Daily Star last night.

The accused in the case are Rid Pharma MD Mizanur Rahman, directors Sheuli Rahman, also Mizanur's wife, Abdul Gani and Rid's

pharmacists Mahbubul Islam and Enamul Haque. A case against them was filed in Brahmanbaria as well.

Three other cases were filed against Rid in Comilla, Narayanganj and Sylhet.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Drug Court issued the warrants after Drug Superintendent Shafiqul Islam filed the case with the court yesterday.

In his complaint, Shafiqul Islam said several children died at Shishu Hospital of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city due to renal failure after given the paracetamol syrup of Rid.

He said the government realised the seriousness of the matter and published advertisements in national dailies asking all not to take any syrups manufactured by the company.

The government also had Temset and Ridaplex syrups of the company tested at the Drug Testing Laboratory of the Public Health Institute at Mohakhali, the complainant said.

The test results concluded that the drugs lacked standards specified for manufacturing those.

Talking to The Daily Star Director of the Drug

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



A bus halts very close to the rail lines at Karwan Bazar level crossing yesterday after it attempted to cross the lines ahead of the train. This happened only a few hundred metres away from Moghbazar level crossing where one person died when a train rammed a bus and tossed it onto other vehicles a few weeks ago. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Children's textbooks terribly illustrated

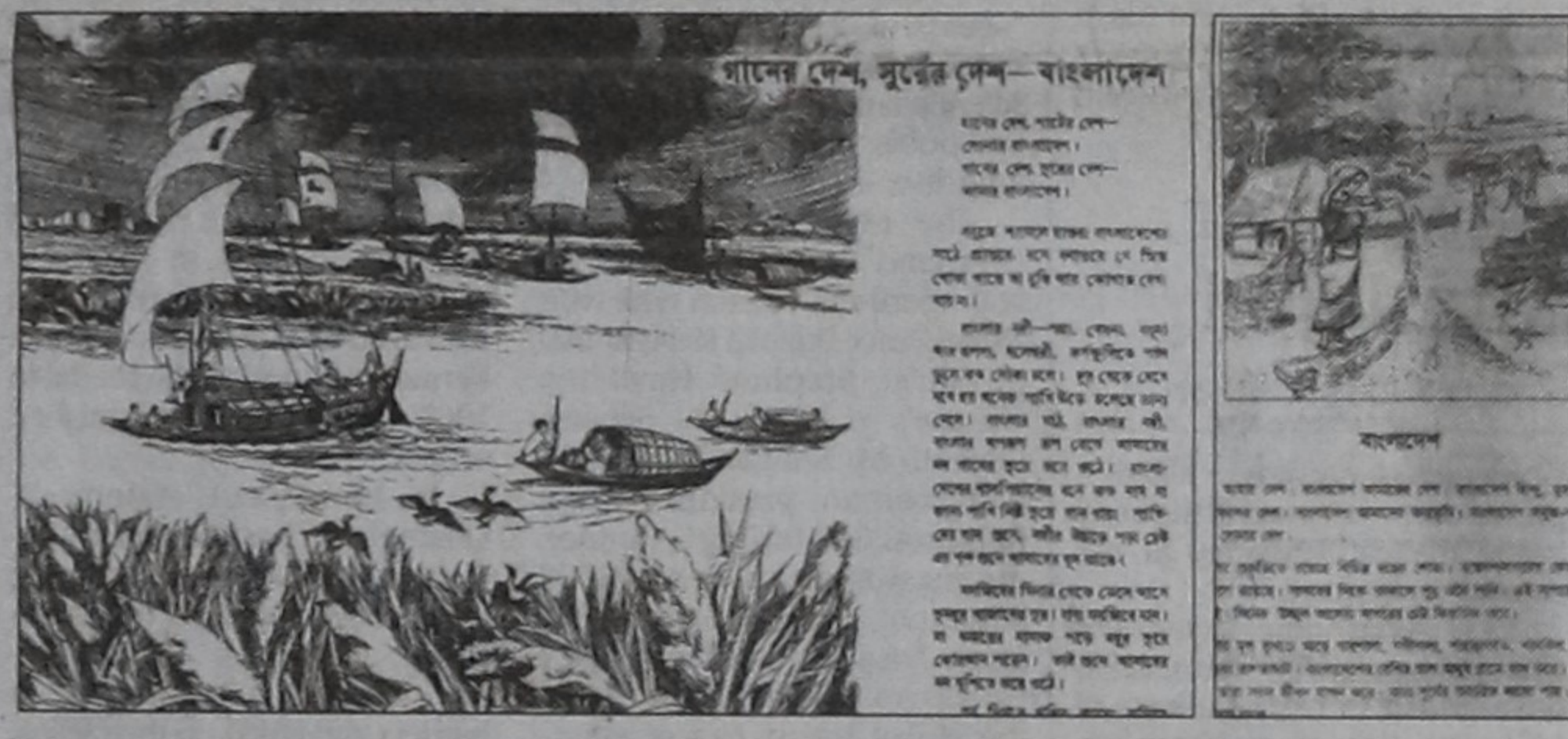
Low quality papers, pathetic illustrations offer shock to children

WASIM BIN HABIB

Textbooks at primary level published by National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) appear to be unattractive to children because of substandard illustrations and design of the books, said educationists, academics and experts.

Children learn half their lessons through illustrations as the visual presentation helps students learn the textual information. As this part is not given proper importance, the books fail to create any appeal to them, they added.

Apart from low quality papers, most of the illustrations are of poor quality and not proportionate to the



This two-page image, left, from Amar Boi for class-III students shows the quality of illustration used in 1985. The top image shows the poor quality illustration and paper now being used in Amar Bangla Boi of class-III.

length of the texts, which fail to draw students' attentions essential for a book at this level.

Interestingly, the quality of illustrations has declined sharply compared to those of eighties and early nineties

though new techniques have evolved in the printing sector, said academics.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Andaman quake leads to tsunami alert for hrs

STAR REPORT

The Met office yesterday withdrew the tsunami alert it issued in the early hours following an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale off the Andaman Islands.

It said Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and the southern region felt the quake at 2:55:42am Bangladesh time, which lasted a few seconds. It had its epicentre 980 kilometres south-southeast of the Met Office in Dhaka.

"The tsunami alert was issued around 4:00am, which was withdrawn at about 6:40am," Meteorologist Mominul Islam told The Daily Star.

"According to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre and Japan Meteorological Agency, devastating tsunami is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Bangladesh runs high quake risk

HELEMUL ALAM

Bangladesh faces a high risk of moderate to strong earthquakes that may result in widespread damage and loss of thousands of lives, said experts.

Bangladesh also faces the risk of tsunami as four active sources of earthquake in the Bay of Bengal can generate tremors with a magnitude of over 7 on the Richter scale in the Bay affecting the country seriously.

The observatory at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) recorded 86 tremors of over 4 magnitude during January 2006-May 2009. Another four earthquakes took place with magnitude of over 5 during the period.

The meteorological department detected at least 90 earthquakes taking place in the country between May 2007 and July 2008, nine of them above five on the Richter scale and epicentres of 95 percent being within a 600 kilometre radius of Dhaka city.

Experts say it is these minor tremors that indicate the possibility of much more powerful earthquakes hitting the country.

According to a seismic zoning map prepared by the Buet, 43 percent areas in Bangladesh are

rated high risk, 41 percent moderate and 16 percent low, said Prof Mehdi Ahmed Ansary.

The map, which is being drawn up under the supervision of Prof Ansary with funding provided by the science and information and communications technology ministry, divides the country into three earthquake vulnerability zones.

Panchagarh, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Sunamganj, Kishoreganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Habiganj and Brahmanbaria are placed in the highest risk zone. Parts of Thakurgaon, Sirajganj, Tangail, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Cox's Bazar also fall into the category, said Prof Ansary.

Zone-2 includes Rajshahi, Natore, Magura, Meherpur, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Feni and Dhaka while zone-3 is made up of all the islands, Barisal and Patuakhali.

The current zoning map has, however, not been included in the Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC), which needs to be urgently updated, pointed out Ansary, who is also vice-president of the Bangladesh Earthquake Society.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Shakib blows Zim away

SPORTS REPORTER

Rampant Shakib Al Hasan led from the front with an aggressive hundred as the Tigers continued their recent remarkable success with a 49-run victory in the second ODI of the five-match series against Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club ground in Bulawayo yesterday.

They extended the lead to 2-0 through a strong batting display, which saw Bangladesh score their highest ODI total, from Shakib and opener Tamim Iqbal, who showed little patience to score back-to-back half-centuries to lay the platform for his captain. Shakib simply put the Zimbabwe attack to the sword on way to his third one-day hundred.

The win also brought about Bangladesh's seventh victory in a row.

The young left-hander, Shakib, took over the baton from Mohammad Ashraful, who scripted the eight-wicket victory with a hundred in the first game, to hit the fastest ODI hundred

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Girl gang raped

Mobile clip on savagery released in CD, on internet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The parents of a rape victim in Faridpur yesterday demanded justice after two men repeatedly raped their 14-year old daughter, recorded the incidents on a mobile phone and later uploaded the video footage on the internet.

They also printed the footage on CDs and sold it in the local markets.

"If we do not get justice, we will commit suicide by burning ourselves," the desperate parent of the victim told local media after filing a case with a court in Faridpur.

Kalam Khan, 30, son of Anwar Khan of Kollochuri village of Bhashanchar area in Sadarpur, and his associate

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Industries Minister Dilip Barua watches as a mobile court checks filling station Amam Enterprise in Mohakhali whether it is selling motorists the correct amount of fuel. The court suspended the filling station's operation and fined it Tk 20,000.

PHOTO: STAR

Mobile court fines eatery, filling station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday penalised businessmen of Tk 2.70 lakh during an anti-adulteration drive in Tejgaon, Mohakhali and Motijheel areas of the capital.

The drive would continue countrywide to ensure hygienic food during the month of Ramadan, said Industries Minister Dilip Barua who was present during the drive.

Led by Additional District Magistrate Amitav Sarker the mobile court fined Zahid Traders at Tejgaon Industrial Area of Tk 1 lakh for manufacturing drinking water in unhygienic environment and marketing products without the approval of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI).

The accused will be sentenced to three months imprisonment in default of paying the penalty, said a press release from industries ministry.

The court filed a case against Taj Food and Beverage at Rail Gate, Tejgaon for using BSTI seal on its products without approval.

In Mohakhali, the court fined a filling station--Amam Enterprise--of Tk 20,000 and suspended its operation for using faulty machine and cheating clients.

Gharoa Hotel, a restaurant

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

DIPLOMA
জানকি কলেজ কলকাতা

DIPLOMA
বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি

ডিপ্লোমা চিনিফ্রি
ডিজিটাল বেসিস গার্লস জিতলেই অস্ট্রেলিয়া

প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের একটি কুপন নমুনা

নাম: _____
ঠিকানা: _____
ফোন: _____
বয়স: _____
রেসিপির নাম: _____

নিয়মাবলী

- দেশের সকল মহিলা এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন
- একজন প্রতিযোগী একটি কুপনের সাথে কেবল একটি রেসিপি পাঠাতে পারবেন
- প্রতিটি কুপনের সাথে একটি ১ কেজি, ৫০০ গ্রাম অথবা ৪০০ গ্রামের বালি ডিপ্লোমা প্যাক পাঠাতে হবে
- প্যাক ও রেসিপিবিহীন কুপন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়
- কেনার আগে ডিপ্লোমা বানান দেখে কিনুন
- রেসিপি লেখার জন্য সাদা কাগজ ব্যবহার করা যাবে
- ইদুল কিডস'০৯ পর্যন্ত রেসিপি পাঠানো যাবে
- কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত

জিতলেই পাবেন

- অস্ট্রেলিয়া ভ্রমণের ২টি টিকেট এবং অন্যান্য আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার
- আপনার ছবিসহ রেসিপিটি দৈনিক পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের সুযোগ
- সেরা রেসিপি তৈরি প্রাণী টিভি শোতে প্রচারিত হবে

১ কেজির সাথে ৫০০ গ্রাম
৫০০ গ্রামের সাথে ২৫০ গ্রাম
৪০০ গ্রামের সাথে ২০০ গ্রাম

চিনি ফ্রি

রেসিপি পাঠানোর ঠিকানা:
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রোড নং ১৩৭, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২, মোবাইল: ০১১৯১-৫৫৬১২২