

THE DAILY STAR-ROBI ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Khodeza Khatun Government Girls' High School in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district are in all smiles as they take part in joyful interactions during the English language fair held at the school yesterday.

Lively participation by kids from 7 schools

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of seven schools in Tangail, Chittagong and Bagerhat districts yesterday participated in the English language fairs held under English in Schools (EIS) programme jointly organised by The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Around 150 students of Basail Govinda Government High School and Basail Pilot Girls High School in Basail upazila of Tangail took part in joyful interactions at the English language fair held at Govinda Government High School auditorium, reports our Tangail correspondent.

The fair venue saw screening of The Lion King, a globally renowned movie, followed by students' participation in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick reply -- all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speeches on different topics and role play.

Bilkis Begum, headmaster of Basail Govinda Government High School, inaugurated the fair as the chief guest.

Later Wazed Ali Khan,

assistant headmaster of the school, distributed prizes among the winners of different competitions.

Our Bagerhat Correspondent adds: Around a hundred students of Khodza Khatun Government Girls High School in Fakirhat upazila under the district took part in the English language fair held under English in Schools' programme yesterday.

The programme included presentation of The Lion King, situation-based question-answer, role play, extempore speech etc.

Later winners of different events received prizes at the function chaired by Abdus Sabur Mian, headmaster of the school.

As The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009, each of one thousand schools selected from 64 districts of the country receives three complimentary copies of The Daily Star five days a week. The ongoing English language fairs at different schools are being held as part of the three-year-long programme.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the English language fairs.

A good number of guardians and teachers of the schools also attended.



PHOTO: STAR

Prize winner students of Basail Govinda Government High School and Basail Pilot Girls' School in Basail upazila of Tangail district pose for photograph with their teachers at the English language fair held at the auditorium of Govinda Government High School yesterday.

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RIVERS IN PATUAKHALI, BARGUNA AND BHOLA *Jatka* catching on defying ban

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Catching of *jatka* (young hilsa) has continued in the rivers of coastal areas including Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola districts as a section of fishermen have continued the illegal act, causing harm to the fish stock in the important breeding grounds.

The government in 2000 imposed ban on catching hilsa for seven months from November 1 to May 31 every year to ensure its uninterrupted breeding and development, fisheries officials said.

But ignoring the ban, a group of fishermen are engaged in random netting of *jatka* at different points of Tetulia, Paira, Lohalia, Ramnabad, Buragourango, Agunmukha, Char Kazal and Char Montaz, Baleswar, Bishkhali, Kalababor, Elisha and Meghna rivers in Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola districts.

During a visit on Wednesday, this correspondent saw fishermen catching *jatka* in Char Kazal area on Buragourango River near Char Kazal launch terminal in Rangabali upazila by trawlers and small country boats.

Fish traders at different markets were seen openly selling *jatka* for Tk 150 to 200 a kg.

Meanwhile, local fisheries officials with the help of law enforcement agencies coastguard, police and Rab seized at least 32 tonnes of *jatka* in Patuakhali and



PHOTO: STAR
Netting of *jatka* (young hilsa) has continued in defiance of a government ban as poverty coupled with lack of awareness leads a section of fishermen to engage in the unscrupulous act. The photo was taken from Buragourango River in Galachipa upazila under Patuakhali district a couple of days ago.

Barguna districts from November last year to February this year.

Groups of fishermen often engage in netting *jatka* in the evening or at night to dodge law enforcers.

"What will we do? We catch *jatka* to run our family as there is no alternative work here," said Rustam Ali, a fisherman of Chhoto Shiba village in Char Kazal union under Rangabali upazila.

Abdul Motin, another fisherman of the same area,

said, "I am a landless man and I am not getting food support under the government's VGF programme. Now I have no alternative to catching *jatka* as I have to run a six-member family."

Patuakhali District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Iqbal Hossain said they are conducting operation against *jatka* catching in the district to discourage fishermen during the ban period.

"In January and February, we conducted 361 drives in different areas of

the district and seized 19.28 tonnes of *jatka* worth about Tk 38.56 lakh. We also seized 29.49 lakh metres of current net worth about Tk 47.77 crore from different rivers. All seized nets were burnt," he added.

Md Faruq Hossain, survey officer of Patuakhali district fisheries office, said they pasted 1,698 posters and distributed 48,459 leaflets among local fishermen and we held 193 meetings with them to create awareness about the harmful effects

of *jatka* catching.

In Barguna, 12.02 tonnes of *jatka* worth about Tk 24.04 lakh, 4.77 lakh metres of current net worth about Tk 19 crore were seized from different areas, said Barguna DFO Md Kamruzzaman.

"At least eight fishermen in the district have been awarded jail for different periods for illegal catching of *jatka*. We also realised Tk 50,800 as fine and Tk 5.97 lakh by selling seized *jatka* in auction," he said.

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার বলিষ্ঠ পদক্ষেপে বাংলাদেশের সমুদ্র জয়



বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের নেতৃত্বে
বাংলালী পেয়েছে ১,৮৮,০০০ বর্গ কিঃ মিঃ
-এর সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ। আর
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শেখ হাসিনার বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্বে জাতি
পেল সমুদ্র সীমানায় ১,১১,০০০ বর্গ
কিঃ মিঃ -এর আরও এক নতুন
বাংলাদেশ।

শ্বাধীনতার এই মাসে আমাদের সমুদ্র জয়ে
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দেশের প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনাকে
ফুলেল শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।



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