

The Daily Star - **রবি** ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Prize winning students at the English language fair held at Jessore Zila School with their teachers yesterday.

## Three more Jessore schools join the fray

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Benapole, Jessore

Students of three more schools in Jessore yesterday took part in the English language held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fair.

Around 700 students of Jessore Zila School, Daud Public School and Jessore Government Girl's High School joined the fair at Zila School auditorium.

Mrs khaleda khatun, assistant headmaster of Zila School, inaugurated the fair at 10:00am. She hailed The Daily Star and Robi for organising such a fair for the school students.

The programme



began with the screening of globally renowned movie The Lion King, followed by students' participation in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions -- all based on the movie. Selected students took part in extempore speech on different topics and role-play.

Students of the three schools took part in joyful interactions and entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Ten students won different competitions. English

teachers SM Gorki and Tapan Sinha of Zila School were the judges.

Khaleda Khatun distributed prizes among the winners at the end of the programme.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.

Under the initiative, 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 in coordination with the education ministry as part of the three-year-long programme.



PHOTO: STAR

A winner receives a prize from the assistant headmaster of Jessore Zila School at the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday.

# Mysterious 'crack disease' affects mangoes in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Dinajpur

Cracking of mangoes following appearance of black spots in different areas of the district seems to dash the hope of bumper production of the delicious summer fruit this season.

Growers are now worried as the disease, never seen in the area before, is damaging the nearly ripe mangoes within seven days of infection.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that most orchards of Dinajpur Sadar upazila are infected with mysterious disease and growers and their workers are passing busy time spraying insecticides and separating the infected mangoes.

The mysterious disease was first noticed about 10 days ago, gardeners said, adding that the infected mango develops a black mark and the fruit cracks within seven days.

If the affected mango is not separated immediately, it affects another, they said.

"I noticed the mysterious disease last week. It has already caused me loss of around Tk 6 lakh. I have been with mango business for the last 15 years, but I have never seen such disease before," said Md Rafiqul Islam, who took lease of a mango orchard with 350 trees at Baserhat in Dinajpur Sadar



PHOTO: STAR

Mangoes on a tree at Baserhat in Dinajpur Sadar upazila get cracked following black spots as the disease, unknown in the area before, has affected many mango orchards in Dinajpur district during the last several days.

upazila.

According to the horticulture department of Dinajpur, there are 3,000 hectares of mango orchards in the district and at least 50,000 tonnes of mango production was expected in this season.

But sudden spread of the disease dashed the hope of bumper mango yield, much

to the worry of a large number of growers who are used to cultivating the fruit as a profitable venture.

The mango orchards in Dinajpur Sadar, Biral, Khansama, Bochaganj and Ghoraghat upazilas are the worst affected.

During this correspondent's visit to the mango orchards, several cultivators

including Rafiqul Islam and Tarazul Islam of Khansama upazila in Dinajpur, said the attack of the disease could not be checked even after spraying pesticide as per suggestions of the horticulture department staff.

They alleged that horticulture experts are yet to visit the affected orchards.

"Incidents of cracks in

mangoes is not new in the area but spread of such sudden 'crack disease' following appearance of black marks is mysterious. We have suggested using pesticides as remedial measure," said Md Anwarul Alam, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Dinajpur.

## RUMOUR OF LOWERING STATUS OF DIPLOMA ENGRS

# Polytech students go on rampage in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of polytechnic institutes blocked highways and went on the rampage in different districts across the country following a rumour that the government has taken a decision to downgrade the diploma engineers' status to class three officials from the existing class two category.

Students of different polytechnic institutes in Barisal vandalised vehicles, houses and shops during their angry demonstration in protest against the alleged 'degradation', reports our correspondent.

A bus, a truck, a covered van, eight three-wheelers, eleven shops and houses in the city were damaged, and 11 people were injured during the students' agitation, said locals and police.

Law enforcers charged baton, fired four rounds of tear gas shells, and arrested 24 students to bring the situation under control, said Matiar Rahman, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of Barisal Kotwali police station.

Our Magura correspondent reports: Students of Magura Polytechnic Institute blocked Magura-Jhenidah highway for two hours yesterday.

They also vandalised a BRTC bus.

As the students blocked the highway near Adalpur of the upazila headquarters by felling

trees and setting fire to tyres, police rushed there, Asaduzzaman Munshi, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar police station, said.

Police charged truncheons on the agitators, prompting them to retaliate by throwing brick chips.

Seven students were injured during the incident.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports: The students of Brahmanbaria Polytechnic Institute barricaded Dhaka Sylhet highway at Islampur in Bijoy Nagar upazila of the district from 10:00am to 11:00am yesterday protesting the alleged degradation of diploma engineers.

Hundreds of students of Pabna polytechnic institute brought out a protest procession and put blockade on Dhaka-Pabna highway in the district headquarters, halting vehicular movement for one hour, reports our Pabna correspondent.

UNB adds: Over 80 people were injured as students of Cox's Bazar and Bogra polytechnic institutes clashed with police after hearing the rumour that the government has taken the decision to downgrade the diploma engineer's status from class two to class three.

Polytechnic students in different districts across the country also observed agitation programmes as they got aggrieved following the rumour.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Pabna Polytechnic Institute demonstrate in front of the institute yesterday. Like their fellow students across the country, they got agitated after hearing a rumour that the government had taken a decision to downgrade the status of diploma engineers to class three level officials from the existing class two category.

## বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম মুসলিম প্রাইভেট কবরস্থান

প্রিয় মুসলমান ভাই ও বোন, মৃত্যু অনিবার্য সত্য। তবুও মৃত্যু আমাদের আবেগতড়িত করে, ভাবিত করে মৃত্যুর পর সমাহিত হওয়া নিয়ে। আমরা প্রত্যেকেই চাই আমাদের কবরে কেউ দোয়া করুক, কবরটি অক্ষত থাকুক। মৃত ব্যক্তির এই চাওয়া কে সন্মান জানিয়ে রূপগঞ্জ, ঢাকা-সিলেট মহাসড়কের পাশে ৩০ বিঘা জমিতে একটি প্রাইভেট কবরস্থান গড়ে তুলছি সুবিন্যস্ত ভাবে। যেখানে বিনামূল্যে কবরের জন্য তিন বিঘা স্থান বরাদ্দ থাকবে। থাকছে-সূর্য্য মসজিদ, ওজুখানা, জানাজার স্থান, মৃতদেহ সংরক্ষণাগার, গাড়ী পার্কিং ব্যবস্থা, কবরস্থানে পর্যাপ্ত আলো ও পানির ব্যবস্থা। পুরো প্রকল্প এলাকা সুদৃশ্য পাঁচিলে ঘেরা। **ক্রয়ের জন্যঃ ০১৯৩৭৯৯৫৪০**

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