



BOY & BOOKS

SHISHIR, 12, a class-III student of Purana Paltan Primary School, unlike other boys of his age he daily earns Tk 100 by selling books in Dhaka University area.

Zahid Hossain Shishir said his mother died when he was aged four and he does not know his father's whereabouts. A former DU student, now a book trader, has employed the boy for Tk 100 and meal a day.

Shishir dreams of attending school full time but he has to work to make a living.

Most of the books Shishir sells are old. The authors of the books include famous names. He carries the books in a trolley provided by his employer.

Most of the people who buy those books are university students, who often pay him more than the actual prices. He regrets that he can not read the big books he sells but he finds solace in thinking that he serves many educated people by selling books.

Many programmes were held on June 12 to mark the World Child Labour Prevention Day. But the fate of many children like Shishir, who are engaged in labour, remains unchanged.

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

