

School science books incomprehensible

Educationists tell book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

School level science books are written in a way that makes them incomprehensible to the students, said noted educationists yesterday.

While the percentage of science students is declining, making the books suitable for young students could popularise science again, they hoped.

They were addressing the launch of "Bigyaner Mojar Pathshala", an illustrated science book designed mainly for the students of class VI, at the capital's Sheltech tower.

The book, edited by Dr Zeba Islam Seraj, was published by Seraj Foundation.

"Science books are badly written. Even I don't understand them. How would the children understand these books?" said Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

He added, "If the authorities tried, good books could be handed to all students in only a year. But nobody seems to bother."

Eminent educationist Rasheda K Chowdhury opined the National Curriculum and Textbook Board had failed to grasp the level of children's thoughts.

She added that well-written books would benefit the students of rural areas whose level of knowledge tend to be lower than the urban students.

Eminent litterateur Syed Manzoorul Islam commended the book for its readability.

Noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury also spoke at the event.



From left, Dr Zeba Islam Seraj, Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, educationist Rasheda K Chowdhury and Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam at the publication ceremony of "Bigyaner Mojar Pathshala", an illustrated science book designed mainly for the students of class VI, at the capital's Sheltech tower yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

NEWS IN brief

Arms, drugs seized from Khulna BCL leader's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police seized two homemade pipe guns, one cleaver, three pipes for making arms, two springs and eight bottles of phensedyl from the house of BCL leader Lutfar Rahman Munna in Khalishpur of Khulna city on Friday night.

Sensing the presence of police, Munna, also former pro-VP of Khalishpur Hazi Muhammad Muhsin College, fled away. Police, however, arrested two people Monirul Islam Modhu and Uzal from the spot. Two cases were filed.

Mugger caught red handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mugger was caught and handed over to police, while his cohort fled with Tk 1 lakh from a bus passenger at Abdullahpur in the capital's Uttara yesterday.

After giving a good beating, the snatcher, Kabir Hossain, was handed over to police.

When the bus slowed down, Kabir and his accomplice, who were boarding the bus posing as passengers, took away the money from Abul Hossain, a trader, and got down from the bus. A case was filed.

Chinese university signs MoU with RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Confucius Institute of North South University in China and Rajshahi University signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) yesterday to set up a Chinese language teaching centre on RU campus, said a press release yesterday.

Maa Yean, director of the institute, and RU VC Muhammad Mizanuddin signed the MoU at the VC office.

After launching the centre will start its activities in 2015.

RU to celebrate 61st founding anniversary today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) is going to celebrate its 61st founding anniversary today.

To mark the day, students, teachers and employees will bring out a colourful procession and hold a discussion.

Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, will inaugurate the programme at 10:10am while RU vice-chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin will preside over the function.



The Bangladesh chapter of Columbia University Alumni Relations Committee hosts a farewell to Azraf Anwar in Gulshan Club of Dhaka on Thursday, who is the only Bangladeshi student to have been accepted into the undergraduate programme of the prestigious Ivy League institution in New York since 2001.

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Khulna medical practitioners go on 2-day strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Medical Association, Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association, and Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association yesterday began a two-day strike protesting the recent attack on Gazi Medical College Hospital and abduction of a duty doctor on Thursday.

They will submit a memorandum to the district administration and hold press conference today.

Student of Khulna University carried on the attack following the death of a fellow student, Amit Roy, who was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday night.

Month-long

FROM PAGE 3 negotiation skills, creativity, innovation, and business ethics were the main attractions for the participants who wanted to make their fortune in the IT sector.

IT experts, Dhaka University teachers, and government officials, among others, conducted the training.

Southern region farmers

FROM PAGE 5

Another grower Alamgir Hossain said he had no idea that maize could be grown on salty land. However, being encouraged by the success of other farmers, he cultivated the crop on his one acre of land this year and is expecting to get 70-80 maunds of yield.

Alamgir said he hoped to make more profit as the maize cobs were being sold at good prices.

A female farmer, Rehana Begum, said she farmed maize on one acre of land after receiving training on the crop cultivation.

Panna Khatun, programme officer of Brac, Kachua upazila, said they were providing all kinds of support to the farmers from crop plantation to harvesting.

Maruf Parvez, Brac's representative in Bagerhat, said in addition to different technical supports, they provided Tk 5,000 as financial assistance to each of the maize growers.

He added farmers required Tk 17,000 to cultivate maize on one acre of land and they might get 75-80 maunds of crop per acre if weather remained favourable.

Thus they can earn profit of Tk 60,000-70,000 by cultivating the cereal item on one acre of land.

Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Bagerhat, Hirendranath Hawlader said cultivation of maize began late in November and it could be harvested within four months of planting.

Fazli market gains

FROM PAGE 3

25,000 hectares of land in the two districts.

Nurul Amin, additional director of DAE in Rajshahi, said almost all the mango trees were in full bloom this season, but many mangoes were damaged due to adverse weather.

The businessmen are now getting optimum price of Fazli mango, as all other early varieties have almost disappeared from the market. The traders and growers are also highly satisfied with the outputs.

Now, Fazli mango is being sold at Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,400 per mound in Shaheb Bazar, Baneshwar, Charchat and Bagha markets of Rajshahi, and Sadar, Moharajpur, Ranihati, Kansat, Mobarakpur,

Chowdala, Rohanpur, Mollikipur and Vholahat markets of Chapainawabganj.

Around 250 trucks are now transporting mangoes to different areas of the country, especially Dhaka, Chittagong, Chowmohani, Narayanganj, Comilla and Fenya, every day.

Nurul Islam, a wholesaler of Kansat, told the newsmen that the mango would be available till mid-August. Mangoes of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj are conventionally late ripening, he said, claiming that the amount of mangoes mixed with carbide had come down to a low level this season due to surveillance by the law enforcement agencies. He said climate change had created a bad impact on the mango trees.

Dried fish trade boosts

FROM PAGE 5

month as wage, they added.

Helal Ahmed, who started dried fish business this year, said investing Tk 5 lakh, he had already made profit of Tk 1 lakh.

Another trader Awal said he had never faced any financial losses since he started the business a few years back. He mentioned that on an average, he is making profit of Tk 2 lakh every year. Asked about dried fish markets, he said after processing, they sent

those to large "shutki" (dried fish) market in Charepar area of Sylhet from where it was supplied to different parts of the country, including the capital.

Shahidur Rahman, a dried fish processing worker, said he maintained his family with the money he earned from his work.

Monwara Begum, another worker, said the business had brought happiness to her family, which faced financial hardship once.

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