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EDUCATION QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

Survey shows grim picture

WASIM BIN HABIB

Around 51 percent of eighth graders do not have expected level of competence in English and 46 percent of them lack proficiency in mathematics, according to a government survey.

The picture is also dismal when it comes to Bangla as more than 45 percent of them cannot gain expected competence in the subject, shows the Learning Assessment of Secondary Education, 2015.

The report however found that sixth graders did better than the eighth graders. Around 71 percent of class VI students achieved the desired level of competence in English and 77 percent in mathematics.

In Bangla, 70 percent of them gained competence, adds the survey report launched at a national workshop at the Residential Model School and College in the capital yesterday.

Teachers and education officers of different tiers were present at the programme.

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) wing of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) conducted the survey on 31,620 students -- 15,810 each from class VI and class VIII -- of 527 education institutions in 32 districts.

The assessment survey was finalised on October 27 last year.

The students took "item tests" on each of the subjects on a single day across the country. The questions, prepared on the basis of class curriculum, were based on multiple choice format and constructed response, said officials of M&E Wing.

"It was not a typical test," M&E Assistant Director SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Students of Willes Little Flower School and their guardians stage demonstrations at Kakrail intersection in the city yesterday demanding justice for the murder of Suraiya Akter Risha, a student of the school. Risha's father (extreme right) and mother (second from left) also joined the demonstrations.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

RISHA MURDER

Protest goes on in Kakrail

STAR REPORT

Guardians along with several hundred students of Willes Little Flower School yesterday barricaded the Kakrail intersection in the capital for two and a half hours, demanding arrest of the killer of fellow student Suraiya Akter Risha.

A week has gone by since stalker Obaidul stabbed Risha leading to her death, but police are yet to arrest him. Law enforcers, however, picked up his sister Khateza Begum and her husband Khadimul Islam in connection with the incident from Birganj of Dinajpur.

The August 24 attack reflected a culture of impunity, which the country is yet to come out of, said National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque.

Daughter of cable operator Ramzan Hossain and housewife Tania Hossain, Risha had been harassed by Obaidul for months by phone and stalked on her way home from school.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

US, India sign military deal

To use each other's land, air, naval bases; Kerry begins talks to boost business ties

REUTERS, Washington

The United States and India signed an agreement on Monday governing the use of each other's land, air and naval bases for repair and resupply, a step toward building defence ties as they seek to counter the growing maritime assertiveness of China.

The agreement, a relatively mundane one concerning day-to-day military logistics, is nonetheless a milestone in the US-India defence relationship because of the outsized political importance it had taken on in India, where it had touched on domestic sensitivities, experts said.



other in joint operations and exercises and when providing humanitarian assistance, Parrikar said.

Washington's desire for deeper security cooperation with India had been

The signing of the agreement will "make the logistics of joint operations so much easier and so much more efficient," US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said in a news briefing with Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

The agreement will allow the Indian and US navies to have an easier time supporting each other in joint operations and exercises and when providing humanitarian assistance, Parrikar said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

STUDENT'S SUICIDE

Teacher held, probe body formed

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Assistant headmaster of Bagdi Gani High School in Chandpur Sadar



Sathi Akter

apazila was arrested yesterday on charge of instigating schoolgirl Sathi Akter to commit suicide.

Victim's father Delwar Hossain on Monday night filed the case with Chandpur Model Police Station, accusing four teachers, including the assistant headmaster, Mohammad Alauddin, 42.

Three other teachers are Fatema Begum, Jahangir SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Toxins in 9 food items

Finds govt study on 15 commodities; no harmful elements in samples of the rest six

REAZ AHMAD

A chemical contamination study conducted by the government on 15 food commodities has found presence of excessive pesticide residues, aflatoxin, formaldehyde and hazardous colouring agents in one fourth of the samples tested.

The tests carried out between November last year and this June at the National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL) at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) got presence of high level of harmful chemicals in many samples of nine food commodities. These food items are: Cauliflower, brinjal, green chili, amaranth, tomato, bean, grape, date and chili powder.

It is heartening, however, that the tests found all samples of six food items -- plum, bitter cucumber, turmeric, dried fish,

- Excessive chemicals in 132 out of 524 food samples
- Excessive formaldehyde in all date and 73% grape samples
- Excessive pesticide residues in 44% brinjal samples

parched rice and mango -- free from any toxins beyond Maximum Residue Limits (MRL).

IPH published the food tests' outcome in a report, published this week, saying, "It is very clear that the presence of pesticide residues, colouring agents, formaldehyde in fruits and vegetables is becoming serious health and environment hazards due to indiscriminate use of these agents."

IPH carried out the tests at NFSL during the eight-month period (November 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) on 45 samples of dried fish, 37 samples of grape and 27 samples each of the remaining 13 food items.

Out of 524 food samples tested, 132 were found out to be chemical positive, meaning those are harmful for human consumption.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Housewife tortured in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A housewife was brutally tortured allegedly by her husband and in-laws in Gazipur on Monday.

Victim Annie Akhtar, 33, daughter of Mojibor Rahman of Kathora area under Gazipur City Corporation, was undergoing treatment at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital.

Annie's husband Khairul Islam and her in-laws are on the run, police said.

The victim's elder sister, Sumi Akhtar, yesterday filed a case with Joydebpur Police Station, accusing five people of torturing Annie. Police arrested Afaz Uddin,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



West Bengal Transport Minister Suwendu Adhikary and acting deputy high commissioner of Bangladesh Miah Md Mainul Kabir flags off the Kolkata-Jessore-Khulna bus service in Kolkata yesterday. This is the third direct bus service between the two countries after that on Dhaka-Kolkata and Dhaka-Agartala routes. The new service is likely to boost foreign tourism in Khulna and Kolkata.

PHOTO: STAR

QUASEM VERDICT

AL hails it, Jamaat calls shutdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League hailed the Supreme Court verdict that upheld death penalty for war criminal Mir Quasem Ali, a Jamaat leader.

The BNP remained close-mouthed as they had been before, following the verdicts of other war criminals.

Mir Quasem's party, Jamaat-e-Islami, on the other hand, has called a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal for today, in protest at the verdict of the Supreme Court.

Jamaat's acting Secretary General Dr Shafiqur Rahman declared the strike -- to commence at 6:00am -- in a statement posted on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

সবাই মিলে দিব কর দেশ হবে খনির্ভর

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

জনকল্যাণে রাজস্ব

সবিনয় দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ!!

সম্মানিত করদাতা!

দেশের রাজস্ব সংগ্রহের দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত একমাত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড। ২০১৫-২০১৬ অর্থবছরের জাতীয় রাজস্ব লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জিত হয়েছে। করদাতাদের সার্বিক সমর্থন ও সহযোগিতায় এ অর্জন সম্ভব হয়েছে। এ জন্য আমাদের শ্রদ্ধা ধন্যবাদ ও কৃতজ্ঞতা।

দেশের বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের করদাতাগণের মূল্যবান পরামর্শের ভিত্তিতে ২০১৬-২০১৭ অর্থবছরের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ২,০৩,১৫২ (দুই লক্ষ তিন হাজার একশত বায়ান্ন) কোটি টাকা নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। এ সকল পরামর্শ দেশের অর্থনৈতিক ভিত্তি মজবুত ও রাজস্ব আভারকে সমৃদ্ধ করবে। করদাতাদের সক্রিয় ও আন্তরিক সহযোগিতায় অতীতের ন্যায় ভবিষ্যতেও আয়কর, ভ্যাট এবং আমদানি শুল্ক খাতে নির্ধারিত লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জিত হবে।

লক্ষ্যণীয়ঃ

- ১ জুলাই ২০১৬ থেকে আয়কর রিটার্ন জমা শুরু হয়েছে।
- ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৬ ব্যক্তি শ্রেণীর করদাতাদের আয়কর রিটার্ন জমা দেয়ার তারিখ শেষ হবে।
- আইন অনুযায়ী প্রত্যেক করদাতার জন্য আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল বাধ্যতামূলক। তবে শেষ দিনের জন্য অপেক্ষা করা সমীচীন হবে না। তাই করদাতাগণকে শেষ দিন পর্যন্ত অপেক্ষা না করে অনুগ্রহপূর্বক যথাসময়ে রিটার্ন দাখিলের জন্য আহ্বান জানানো যাচ্ছে।
- করমুক্ত আয়সীমাঃ

পুরুষ : দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা	নারী এবং ৬৫ বছর বা তদুর্ধ্ব প্রবীণ নাগরিক : তিন লক্ষ টাকা
প্রতিবন্ধী : তিন লক্ষ পঁচাত্তর হাজার টাকা	পেজেন্টভুক্ত যুদ্ধাহত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা : চার লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা

বাজেট কার্যক্রম ২০১৬-২০১৭ এর মাধ্যমে আয়করের ক্ষেত্রে যেসব নতুন বিধি-বিধান প্রণয়ন এবং কর আইনে যেসব পরিবর্তন আনা হয়েছে তা সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের নিকট সহজভাবে উপস্থাপনের লক্ষ্যে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড আয়কর পরিপত্র ২০১৬-১৭ প্রকাশ করেছে। পরিপত্রটি জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইট <http://nbr.gov.bd>-তে আপলোড করা হয়েছে। জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের <http://nbr.gov.bd/contents/poripotro/16.pdf> লিংক থেকে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড আশা করে, দেশের দেশপ্রেমী ও সুনামগরিক করদাতাগণ যথাসময়ে কর পরিশোধ করে দেশের উন্নয়নে সাহসী ভূমিকা রাখবেন এবং গর্বিত ও উন্নত জাতি গঠনে বলিষ্ঠ অবদান রেখে যাবেন। দেশের সকল আয়কর অফিস আপনাদের সার্বিক সহযোগিতা প্রদানে সর্বদা প্রস্তুত।

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GROUNDWATER DEPLETION

S Asia faces crisis

AFP, Paris

Sixty percent of the groundwater in a river basin supporting more than 750 million people in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh is not drinkable or usable for irrigation, researchers said Monday.

The biggest threat to groundwater in the Indo-Gangetic Basin, named after the Indus and Ganges rivers, is not depletion but contamination, they reported in the journal Nature

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

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