

A happy occasion for slum kids

Benevolent students give the children learning materials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

It was a different day for all concerned as a group of young learners under the banner of Child Journalists' Forum gifted a khata (copy book), a pen and candy to each of the 30 poor children of Bewtha slum in the district town on Thursday.

The underprivileged kids are enrolled with a local non-formal schooling project run by the Islamic Foundation.

Monjur Mohammad Shahriar, additional deputy commissioner of Manikganj, also joined the happy occasion, giving attractive pencil boxes to the children.

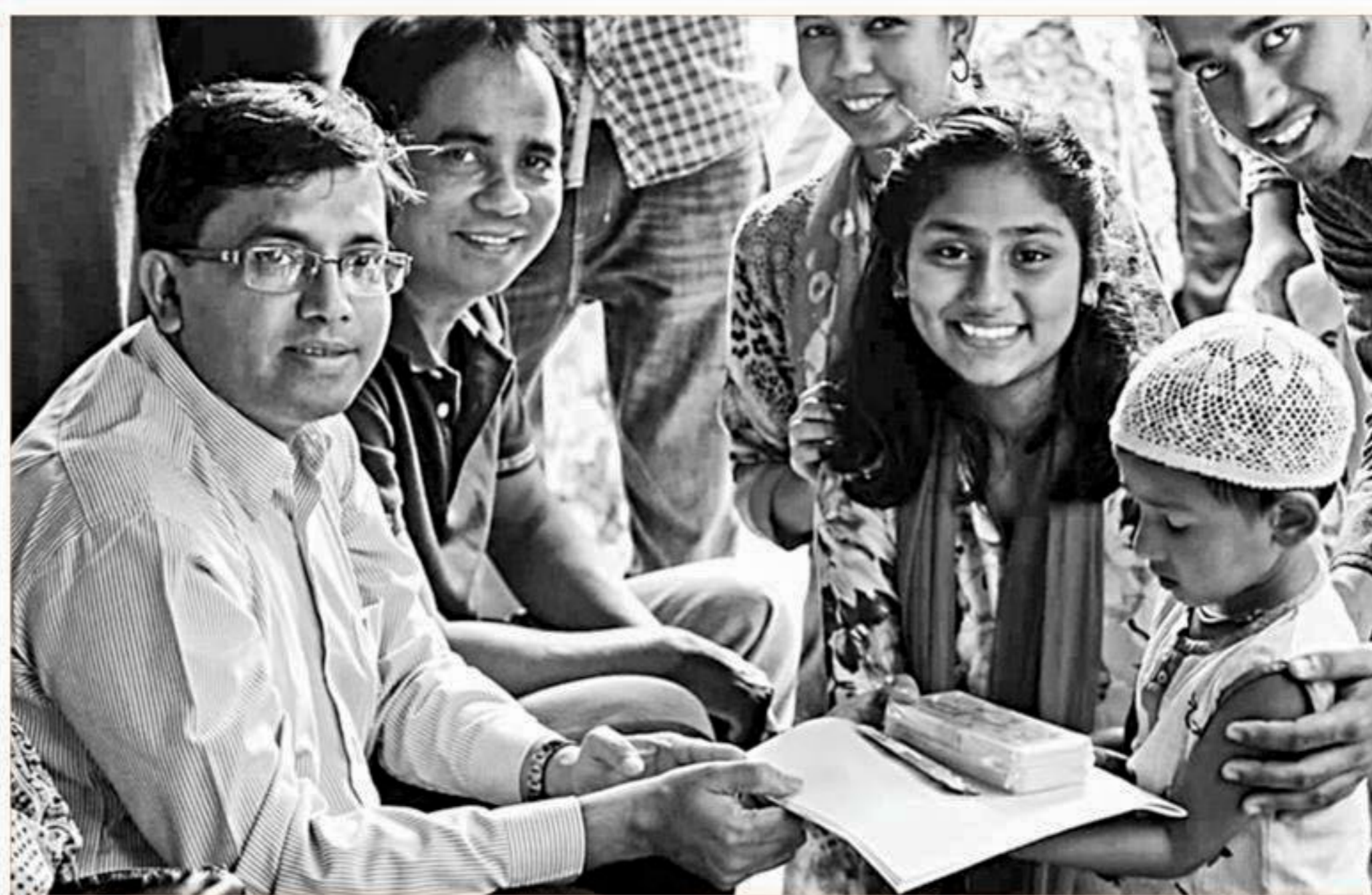
The smiling faces of the recipient kids showed how small gifts can mean a big thing and initiate a real change for the better.

"We took the initiative under our 'One khata one pen' project to prevent poor children's dropout. We will continue our programme to arrange schooling for the poor and deprived children," said Hasan Shikdar, president of the 15-member forum, and an intermediate first year student of Government Devendra College.

Members of the project, intermediate students Jannatul Ferdous Jui, Abul Hasanat and Al-Jaber and Class IX student Sham-Meem-Jopa Bristi said they collected money for the purpose by saving from the tiffin money that they got from their parents.

They discussed with the underprivileged children of the slum and exchanged views with their guardians regarding overall development of the kids.

Welcoming the initiative, ADC Monjur Mohammad Shahriar urged the guardians to send their children to school.



Like many others of his age, a kid at Bewtha slum in Manikganj town on Thursday receives learning materials from Child Journalists' Forum that initiated the programme to prevent dropout of underprivileged children in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

DEATH OF JAILED LEADER

Gaibandha BNP calls hartal today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha BNP called a half-day hartal in the district for today, protesting death of its jailed leader from alleged torture.

District BNP general secretary Gausul Azam Dollar, 50, who was arrested and jailed by a mobile court for planning to carry out subversive activities, died at Gaibandha Sadar Hospital yesterday.

Dollar fell sick at the district jail and later died at the hospital, said Jail Superintendent Mahbubur Rahman.

Dollar died in five minutes after he was brought to the hospital, said Dr Shahinul Islam.

On October 6, Dollar was jailed for two months by a mobile court, said police.

District BNP President Anisuzzaman Khan Babu alleged that Dollar died due to torture and negligence in treatment in the jail.

Grandfather says abduction

Girl says no

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police rescued a schoolgirl, allegedly abducted from Dimla upazila of Nilphamari, from Savar upazila in Dhaka on Friday, 23 days into her abduction.

The law enforcers also arrested Jahangir Alam, 22, and his father Abdul Mazid, 55, for their alleged involvement in the abduction.

Police said Jahangir and his associates picked up the girl, a Class IX student of Dimla Chapani Girls' High School, while she was returning home from the school on October 19.

Failing to know her whereabouts, victim's grandfather lodged a case with Nilphamari Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal the following day.

Officer-in-Charge Moazzem Hossain of Dimla Police Station said police rescued the girl from a house at Nabinagar village. They also detained Jahangir and Mazid from there.

Sub-inspector Shahabuddin Ahmed, also the investigation officer of the case, said the victim, however, claimed that none had abducted her and she left her house willingly and married Jahangir the same day.

Police produced the arrestees and the victim before the court yesterday that sent Jahangir and Mazid to jail and handed the victim under her grandfather's custody.

Cyber security in banks stressed

BSS, Bogra

Thengamara Mahila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS), a non-government organisation, yesterday launched information technology (IT) training for the bank officials to strengthen cyber security in the banking and financial sectors.

Strengthening cyber security in the banking sector is a must, especially with regular innovations happening in the ICT sector, speakers told a dissemination workshop at a hotel here yesterday.

State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan spoke at the workshop as chief guest, with TMSS Executive Director Prof Dr Hosne-Ara Begum in the chair.

Elderly man killed by family members

Accused son and daughter held, wife and son-in-law flee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Property-greedy family members beat dead an elderly man in Bhangura upazila of the district on Friday.

The victim is Md Torab Sardar, 70, son of late Fayeze Sardar of Boalmari village of Mondotosh union in Bhangura upazila.

Police arrested Torab's son Saddam Hossain, 24, and daughter Sabina Khatun, 20, on charge of the murder while two other accused -- Torab's wife Sohagi Begum and son-in-law Monirul Islam managed to escape.

"Torab's wife and their son and daughter often created pressure on him to hand over 10 bighas of inherited land so that they can sell it. But he did not want to part with the paternal land before his death," said Md Amir Hossain, nephew of the victim.

FAO to work for erosion-hit people

Says Bangladesh representative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will chalk out a plan to solve the problems of the erosion-hit farmers of the coastal areas, including Pirojpur, said Mike Robson, representative of FAO in Bangladesh.

He said this at a programme on the occasion of Jagaddhatri Puja, a festival of the Hindu community, at Uttar Raghunathpur village under Kawkhali upazila of the district on Friday.

They will contact with the farmers directly to learn about their problems, he added.

Minister for Environment and Forest Anwar Hossain Manju, in his speech as chief guest, said coastal people have to adapt to climate change, erosion by rivers and natural calamities like cyclone, tidal surge and flood.

Assistant Representative of FAO in Bangladesh Nur Ahmed Khandakar, Assistant Representative (administration) of FAO in Bangladesh Ekramul Haque, Kawkhali Upazila Chairman SM Ahsan Kabir and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Laboni Chakma were present at the programme.



Flouting government rules, representatives of different tobacco companies conduct open campaign in favour of their brands, including offering of free sticks to have a taste. The photo was taken from Nekmarad Haat in Ranishankoil upazila under Thakurgaon a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Campaign for smoking

QUARMUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

In gross violation of government rules, several tobacco companies have continued advertisement of their products at different public places in the district, much to the worry of health conscious people.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw four or five workers of Dhaka Tobacco Industries sitting under an umbrella beside a betel shop at Nekmarad Haat in Ranishankoil upazila of the district.

They were seen describing the 'merits' of smoking Briton brand of cigarette and offering it to people, especially younger ones, take the taste.

Those who showed interest to buy a packet after smoking it were given an extra packet as incentive.

"I don't know about any prohibition on advertisement for promotion of cigarettes. As per instructions of our high officials, we are doing it as part of job," said Michael Islam, a worker of the company.

"We only offer cigarettes to the smokers. Other tobacco companies do

the same to promote their brand in various ways," said Md Sharif, another worker.

Two workers of British American Tobacco Bangladesh were seen campaigning with their product Derby cigarette on Shaheed Mohammad Ali Road in the town.

Another worker was seen near the Judge's Court compound, campaigning for promotion of the Gold Leaf brand of British American Tobacco with the help of a touch pad on a computer.

A good number of betel shops of the district are decorated with leaflets and posters containing pictures of different brands of cigarettes.

"Cigarette companies give us free showcase with their product's advertisement. The companies also give us different gifts to promote their products," said Md Mostafa, a betel shop owner on Shaheed Mohammad Ali road in the town.

In violation of government rules, the tobacco companies are continuing advertisement to motivate people, especially young ones, to consume their products, said Motiur Rahman,

programme officer of Association For Community Development, who are working against drug abuse.

Once mobile courts conducted drives at different places against tobacco campaign but it is hardly seen nowadays, he said.

Md Asrafur Islam, additional district magistrate of Thakurgaon, said they will conduct drive at different levels against such campaign on tobacco products through taskforce.

Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2013, prohibits tobacco advertising in any print and electronic media, distribution or supply to the public any leaflet, handbill or document which carries the brand name, colour, logo, trademark, mark, sign or advertisement of tobacco products.

Distribution of free and discounted tobacco products, giving or accepting any gift, prize, scholarship or entering into any agreement or understanding with any person to arrange any tournament for the purpose of promoting the use of tobacco products are also prohibited under the act.

Arrange schooling in mother tongue for indigenous kids

Speakers tell Moulvibazar discussion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Indigenous leaders and members of the civil society yesterday urged the government to take initiative to arrange education in mother language for the indigenous children.

They said this while speaking at a discussion titled 'Right to education in mother tongue' at Madhabkundo Punjee Education Centre in Barlekha upazila of the district.

They said education in mother language would help cut the dropout rate of indigenous students from primary schools.

Aloghar Project and Caritas Sylhet Region organised the meeting sponsored by the European Union and Caritas France.

Mihir Ghagra, president of the management committee of the education centre, presided over the meeting.

Mihir urged the government to introduce the Khasi language for their children to make lessons enjoyable to them.

Dabi Khain, a guardian of the punjee, said they want quality education to increase children's ability to learn their own lan-

guage and also to lessen dropouts and increase attendance in schools.

Media personality Abdur Rob in his speech as the chief guest said the responsibility of the government is to ensure that the textbooks are written in the Khasi language. Rob hoped that the government would take immediate steps to save the language.

Head of the Madhabkundo punjee Wanbor L Kiri, Donbosco Khongstia and Aloghar Project education supervisor Sajal Borokurmi spoke at the programme moderated by Cholti Marlia, head teacher of the education centre.

Aloghar Project Regional Manager Pius Nanuar said the government needs to introduce mother tongue-based primary education in indigenous areas. "It will encourage our indigenous children to go to school," he added.

District Primary Education Officer of Moulvibazar Sirajul Islam said multi-lingual education programme is important for the indigenous children as it would enhance their language skill as well as increase attendance at schools.

Man arrested

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According to Rab, local thug Rubel and his gang were called in by a resident of the lodging to "settle the matter" after its manager raised objection to a female visitor's entering the all-male housing.

Rubel and his associates, with the help of the lodging resident, threatened to kill the couple and snatched a cell phone and cash from the young woman's fiancé.

At one stage Rubel took the girl to a nearby garage by force. Later on he shifted her to an abandoned house and violated her, Rab added.

The victim, a beauty parlour employee in the city, was given treatment at One-stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital following the incident, said hospital sources.

A case was filed in this connection with Badda Police Station by the victim's family on October 28.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Sylhet
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. LGED/XEN/SYL/3-12/2016/3175 Date: 09/11/2016

e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No-15/2016-17

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated below:

Sl No	Package No	Name of works	Tender ID No	Method of Tender
1	SYL/UNR-70.2	Improvement of Manikpur UP Office (Noor Pur)-Babur Bazar via Mirzarchak-Tirashi-Gachua-Maizbondh Road (Ch. 5+400-10+825km) under Upazila: Zakiganj, District: Sylhet.	74755	OTM
2	SYL/RPM-386	Rehabilitation and Periodic Maintenance of RHD Sylhet-Kamal Bazar-Ponaula Bazar-Nowagow-Biswanath GC Road (Ch. 0+000km-10+407km), Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet.	74336	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered bank up to 14/12/2016, 12:30pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). Tender notice will be available on the website: www.lged.gov.bd

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