



# Children are not treated with care

Unicef-funded study shows 82pc urban children experience physical punishment or psychological aggression

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 82 percent of the country's urban children aged 14 and below experience physical punishment or "psychological aggression", according to a survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Of them, 17.6 percent are victims of severe physical punishment.

The survey of over 20,000 urban households was conducted between February and April with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). The key findings of it titled "Child well-being survey in urban areas of Bangladesh 2016" were made public at a seminar at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital yesterday.

Screaming, yelling and shouting were considered as psychological aggression in the survey, said Shantanu Gupta, monitoring and evaluation specialist at the Unicef.

Respondents were presented with questionnaires asking them what measures they had taken to discipline their children in the last one month. Only 13 percent children were found to have been "disciplined" through non-violent means.

In slums of city corporation areas, 84.9percent children are victims of violence while 81.9percent outside slums also face violence.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



In the early foggy morning and with the mercury plummeting, traders take their bananas and lemons to a near by bazaar in Srimangal of Moulvibazar. The photo was taken at 8:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

# Japan to lift travel alerts for its citizens

Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan is going to withdraw various restrictions including travel alerts for its nationals imposed following the killing of Japanese citizens and militant attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

"This was a very good piece of information and a very good thing for our country that Japanese restriction on doing business in Bangladesh is going to be lifted," the minister said at a press briefing at his office yesterday returning from Japan.

The minister flew to Tokyo on December 7 to highlight security measures the government had taken for foreigners working in the Japan-financed projects in Bangladesh.

During his visit, Muhith held meetings with various high officials including Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# DEATH OF DIAZ New autopsy reveals bruises

CU CORRESPONDENT

A fresh autopsy has found bruises on the body of Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Diaz Irfan Chowdhury who according to his family was murdered.



Diaz Irfan

"There were some bruises on Diaz's body," Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic and medicine department at the Dhaka Medical College, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said they collected viscera and other samples from the body for tests.

"We can't tell anything for sure now. We will have to wait for the reports. We will also visit the spot where his body was found and talk to the investigators," he added.

"After all the procedures, we will submit our report with our opinions."

A three-member committee, comprising doctors Sohel, Pradip Biswas and Kabir Sohel of the DMC, carried out the fresh autopsy at the college yesterday.

On Saturday, Diaz's body was exhumed following a court order. The court passed the order after the investigation officer

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Breath of fresh air in Narayanganj

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and RASHIDUL HASAN from Narayanganj

Character assassination and mudslinging during election campaigns anywhere in the country are all too common.

But the situation is refreshingly different in the run up to the Narayanganj City Corporation election thanks to clean campaigns run by two main mayoral candidates - Awami League-nominated Selina Hayat Ivy and BNP-backed Shakhawat Hossain Khan.

As of yesterday, neither Ivy nor Shakhawat attacked their rivals personally. They restrained themselves from vilifying each other during their electioneering.

Candidates, voters and civil society members in Narayanganj are happy with the prevailing election atmosphere and hoped the election will be completed in a festive mood.

Election campaign formally began on December 6, and the polls would be held on December 22 on partisan lines for the first time. The constituency has around five lakh voters.

"Until yesterday, no complaint of violation of the electoral code of conduct by any of the seven mayor hopefuls was lodged with the returning officer for the NCC polls," Nuruzzaman Talukder, returning officer for the polls, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Locals said that although Narayanganj, once known as Dundee of the East, earned a bad name due to the use of muscle power and poor law and order, the election would be free from such practices this time.



Ivy

Shakhawat

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

# Why no separate questions

HC asks univs about english-medium admission seekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

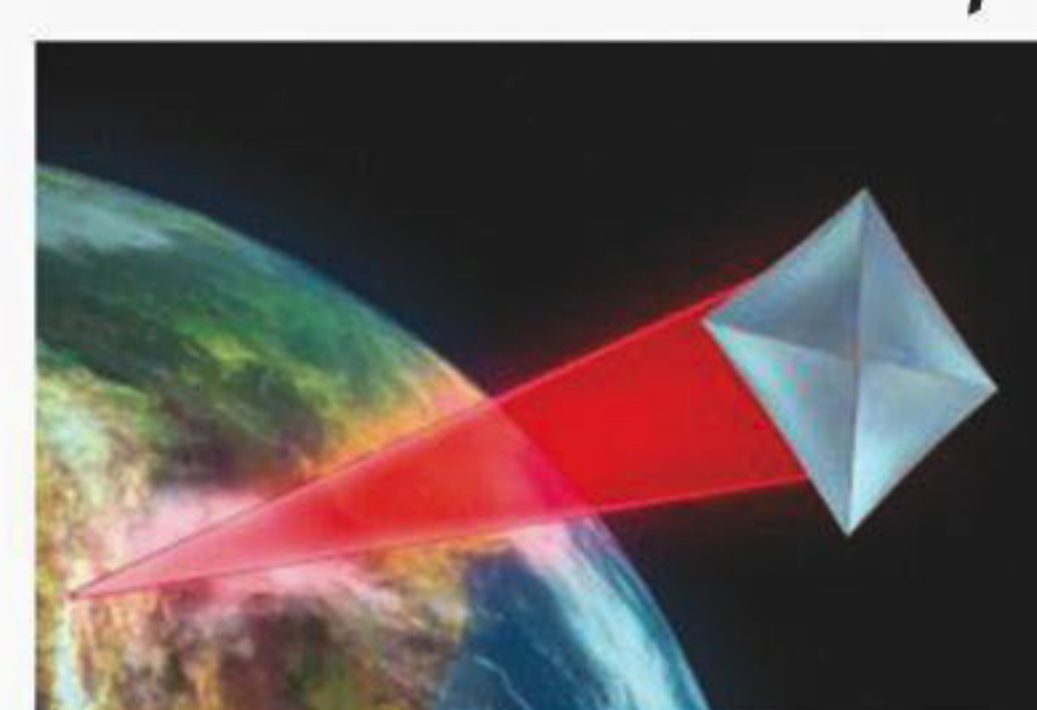
The High Court in a rule yesterday sought explanation from public university and medical college authorities as to why they should not be directed to introduce separate question papers for admission seekers from English medium institutions.

The HC bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif issued the order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Atiqur Rahman.

In the rule, the court also asked the authorities concerned to show cause as to why they should not be ordered to introduce a fair and standardised grading

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# Nasa is working on nano-starship



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa researchers have joined forces with Stephen Hawking to build a nano-starship that can travel one-fifth the speed of light.

If successful, the ship, called "StarChip" could reach Earth's closest star system, Alpha Centauri, in 20 years.

Stephen Hawking announced the Breakthrough Starshot project in April, for which he is joined by a team at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology. But whether the craft could survive a two decade-long trip remained in question.

That's where Nasa can help. According to their researchers, high-energy radiation in space could cause the ship to cease functionality well before

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# BSF kills cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader near the bordering area of Aditmari upazila in the district.

The incident took place around 5:00am inside Indian territory near border pillar 924/8 at Chawratari village in Durgapur union as the victim -- Asadul Islam, 32, son of Abul Hossain

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 12  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# TANGAIL HOUSEWIFE Husband 'tried to kill her'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The condition of Fatema Akhter Liya, of Bhuapur upazila, who was brutally tortured by her husband for dowry, has slightly improved.

Dr Putul Roy, deputy director of Tangail Medical College Hospital where Liya has been receiving treatment, said the injuries to her eyes and head were serious.

"It seemed, examining the injuries of the housewife, that the attacker tried to kill her," she said. Liya is under observation and it will take time for her to get well.

Meanwhile, police are hunting for Liya's husband Hafez Mohammad Shofiqul Islam, imam of Niklapara mosque and a shopkeeper at a nearby market.

AKM Kawsar Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Bhuapur Police Station, said police on Saturday took statement of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Bhupati Bhusan Barma standing beside the musical instruments he had collected. Students and teacher of Bangladesh Bhawaiya Academy, bottom left, singing in their classroom and some kharams, traditional sandals, at the Kasim Uddin Folk-art Museum.



PHOTO: ABDUL WAHED

# Bhawaiya song, play on!

One man's passion for folk music drives museum plans

ABDUL WAHED with ANDREW EAGLE

Some say the buffalo ploughmen sang Bhawaiya songs as they tilled the "bhawa" lowlands. Others believe the word "Bhawaiya" has roots in "bao" meaning "breeze", fit for songs that flow strong with high emotion. What cannot be denied is this: a form of song especially favoured by the Rajbongshi and sung in local Rangpuri language the Bhawaiya tradition is iconic to North Bengal.

Now, thanks in large part to Bhupati Bhusan Barma, 58, who has worked tirelessly over the years to firmly position Kurigram's Ulipur upazila at the heart of Bhawaiya's map, there are plans afoot to honour and preserve the memorabilia relating to this rich musical heritage.

A senior teacher of Durgapur High School in Ulipur upazila by day, Bhupati is an eminent singer and Bhawaiya enthusiast. He has performed in concerts as far afield as West Bengal. "Bhawaiya songs have long been popular here," he says. "Lyrics often recall the rural life details, using linguistic terms unique to the region."

"But the younger generation," Bhupati laments, "are less familiar with Bhawaiya. They don't understand all the references in the songs. As a result their interest is less."

It's not only local terms that have fallen into disuse. Much of the paraphernalia once common to agricultural life and referred to in the songs has itself gone the way of history.

Bhupati believes displaying these implements, which were once integral to daily life, can reconnect modern North Bengalis through Bhawaiya songs with their ancestral roots. As such, Bhupati started collecting visual items relevant to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5