

Weighed down by too many subjects

Schoolchildren struggle to keep focus; some subjects meant to be practical are taught in class only

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Soon after the academic year began in January, Masuma Marjan tried to make a routine squeezing in all the 13 subjects she must complete before her JSC exams. But the eighth grader quickly realised she doesn't even have the whole year for her preparation -- her exams are scheduled for November.

So she has settled for studying the main subjects first, each carrying 100 marks, and then thumb through the "less-significant" subjects in whatever time she will have left.

Last year she couldn't even touch several chapters of two subjects because of time constraints. But the 14-year-old is more committed to studies this year as she prepares for her second public exams.

"My son is bright. But I'm concerned that he may lose interest in studies under so much pressure."

MOUSUMY SHILL, a mother

The National Education Policy 2010 promises a creative, favourable and joyful environment for primary and secondary students. This is probably why the education ministry introduced subjects like Arts and Craft, Physical Education and Health, Information and Communication Technology and Work and Life-oriented Education.

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Demonstrators block Pragati Sarani in front of the main gate of Bashundhara Residential Area in the capital yesterday. They were protesting an assault on North South University students the previous night allegedly by Bashundhara security personnel and Ansar members.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Assault on students sparks clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

North South University students and police clashed for around five hours yesterday during a protest at the assault on some NSU students allegedly by Ansar members and security guards in Bashundhara Residential Area on Wednesday night.

Several hundred students started demonstrating on the campus inside Bashundhara around 10:30am. At one stage, they marched to nearby Pragati Sarani and blocked the thoroughfare for two hours.

As police drove them away, they moved back into Bashundhara. While on

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Prevent misuse of new child marriage act

Child rights activists urge government to formulate rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child rights activists yesterday called upon the government to formulate rules of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 immediately to prevent its misuse.

Pointing out that the government hasn't yet formulated rules of the National Child Policy 2011, they expressed concern similar delay in the case of the marriage restraint act will leave scope for abuse.

Their concerns were especially centred on the act's provision for marriages below the permissible age under "special circumstances" as they spoke at a press conference organised at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka by Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, a network of non-government development organisations, international organisations and civil society.

The law was passed in parliament on Monday keeping the provision that

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Strike over, should we be happy?



SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

Good news finally followed a couple of days' mayhem by transport workers. The strike was called off Wednesday, only when Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan made a "request" to transport workers.

We all -- the government, the judiciary and the people -- can now heave a sigh of relief and move on with life. But should we? Let's replay the news that made headlines from February 27 to March 1.

Businesses took a big blow, with export and import almost coming to a grinding halt. Families with patients looked to God as they suffered on roads to hospital. Prices of all items at kitchen markets soared as supplies to the capital were obstructed. Filling stations ran out of fuel as tank-lorries from refineries were kept off the road. Whatever the urgencies might have been, people could not get on highways with any motorised vehicle to go to another district. In Dhaka, it was time for a long walk to work or for chores.

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Pay Tk 30cr in 2 weeks

HC asks 154 tanneries to compensate for environmental damage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed 154 Hazaribagh tannery owners to pay the government Tk 30.85 crore as fine within two weeks for polluting the environment and failing to relocate their factories to Savar Tannery Industrial Estate.

In July last year, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court ordered that every tannery owner must pay Tk 10,000 a day for damaging and polluting the environment in the area and also ordered the owners to shift their businesses to Savar.

During the hearing of a contempt petition yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaque Islam and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das said the tannery owners would face serious consequences if they did not deposit the due compensation into the state funds, complying with its directives.

Industries Secretary Mosharrar Hossain

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Trump facing Russia scandal flare-up

AG Jeff Sessions under fire after reports he met Russian ambassador twice in 2016

POLITICO.COM

The Trump administration's Russia problem has flared up big-time amid revelations that Attorney General Jeff Sessions met twice with the Russian ambassador last year, and didn't tell senators about it during his confirmation.

After riding high on Trump's well-received first address to Congress on Tuesday, the White House is mired once again in the scandal over whether



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Yaba ingredient to be banned

REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is to ban the import of the cold-medicine component pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in illicit methamphetamine production, anti-narcotics officials said, after purchases spiked in tandem with a boom in the illegal drug "yaba".

The soaring popularity of yaba, a mix of methamphetamine and caffeine usually consumed in pill form, is rattling governments across Asia, with annual sales in Bangladesh alone estimated at \$3 billion.

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