

NEWS IN brief

Muggers snatch Tk 53 lakh impersonating 'policemen'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Identifying themselves as "policemen", a group of muggers yesterday snatched Tk 53 lakh from two businessmen in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj.

Quoting the businessmen, Sub-inspector Shafiqul Islam of Rupganj Police Station said United Commercial Bank had awarded a tender to Swarnali Enterprise of the capital's Gulistan Trade Centre for supplying the bank with Zakat clothes to be distributed among the poor this year.

For buying the clothes, Swapan Sarker, director of the enterprise, along with his business partner Jewel and two employees were going to Shekher Char Haat in Narsingdi carrying Tk 53 lakh, said the SI.

When the microbus carrying them reached Neela Market area at Purbachal around noon, eight miscreants stopped the vehicle and robbed them at gun-point.

Special needs items distributed among children in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Special needs products were distributed among several children of Pathalia union of Savar, outside the capital, yesterday.

With the help of Save the Children, Village Education Resource Center (VERC) distributed the products, including special chairs, walking frames, hearing aids and shoes, among 20 children with special needs under the project "Hope" at its Ghugudia Disability Service Center.

Moynul Islam, director (Education) of VERC, and local representatives were present.

Fugitive arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a fugitive wanted in a murder case at Bayezid in Chittagong city yesterday.

Police said one Md Belal was stabbed to death in September, 2013 centring establishing supremacy in the area and the arrestee, Md Samrat, of Fatikchhari, was the prime accused in the murder case.

Gopalganj road crash kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed as a truck ran him over on Gopalganj-Tungipara road in Ghonapara of Gopalganj Sadar yesterday.

The deceased is Abdul Kader Mollah, 35, of Bannabari village in the upazila.

Locals said Kader, a butcher, was preparing a cow to slaughter beside the road. Suddenly the cow hit him making him fall on the road and he got run over by the truck. He died on the spot.

Implement gender budget properly

Urges BMP symposium STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper implementation of the gender budget is needed to produce high skilled female entrepreneurs, participants stressed at a symposium yesterday.

This year, the gender budget has been increased by 29.3 percent compared to last year's, said Sharmin Neelormi, associate professor of economics of Jahangirnagar University.

Referring to the proposed budget, Dr Nazneen Ahmed, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said, "It is required to know how women are being benefited from the budget."

The symposium was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at its office in the capital. BMP Vice President Rekha Chowdhury was in the chair.

Raise taxes

FROM PAGE 3

"Rather than being discouraged, the youths are being encouraged to consume tobacco due to such small price increase."

Brig (ret) Prof Abdul Malik, founder of National Heart Foundation, said the government spends double the amount it earns from the tobacco sector for patients suffering from diseases caused by tobacco.

Advising the abolition of the current complex slabs of taxation on tobacco products, he also demanded higher taxes on the harmful products.

Prof Rumana Haque of Dhaka University, former National Board of Revenue Member Mohammad Aminur Rahman and ATMA Convenor Liton Hayder also spoke among others.



Various rights organisations including Poribesh Bachao Andolon form a human chain on Bailey Road in the capital demanding enforcement of food safety laws during Ramadan and throughout the year.

PHOTO: STAR

Only 2pc of Dhaka children have access to playgrounds: Survey

BSS, Dhaka

The scene is disappearing fast that children are running to the playground with football or cricket gears with the ringing of the tiffin bell as most of the Dhaka schools do not have any playground left for the students.

According to a recent survey of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), only 2 percent children of the capital have the access to playgrounds.

Lack of sports or physical activities creates a huge setback in children's physical and mental growth and it seems to be one of the major reasons behind the current uptrend graph of country's child obesity.

As per the data of the Primary Education Department, there are 338 primary schools, 450 NGO-run schools and more than 11,000 kindergartens in the capital. Apart from the government schools, 98 percent of the private schools do not have any playground, it said.

The World Health Organization suggested that the children under the age group of 5 to 10 should spend at least one hour in a day on a playground

for their proper physical and mental growth. But the urban kids are not getting space for playing neither at schools nor at their neighborhoods.

Scarcity of playgrounds forces them to be addicted to digital devices like tab, laptop and mobile phones. This digital addiction is making them obese and hampering their proper mental growth.

Dr Mehzabin Haque, associate professor of the Education and Consultant Physiology Department of Dhaka University, said, "We should not forget that extracurricular activities are must for mental development of children. There is no alternative to sports to maintain mental and physical growth of the children."

Eminent Psychiatrist Mohith Kamal said sports is a major component for physiological development of children. "Sports help children to mingle with others, to control emotion as well as to have the mentality to accept defeat. Without outdoor sports, it is not possible," he said.

Associate Professor of National Mental Health Institute and pediatrician Helal Uddin Ahmed said nowadays the schools are not playing enough roles in mental and physical develop-

ment of the children.

Most of the institutes are result-oriented and are not that much interested in extracurricular activities. It hampers socialisation of children, he observed.

Dhaka District Primary Education Officer Hosne Ara Begum said there is no alternative to ensuring proper physical activities for children along with studies.

"Playground is a prime need for children but the reality is that we don't have adequate number of playgrounds in the capital. I would like to request the guardians to take their children for outing at least once a week," she said.

The experts said children have to get chances to play outside no matter whether there is a playground in the school or not. In this case, the guardians have to take initiatives.

There are some fields and parks in the capital. The guardians should take their children to those fields instead of making them busy with electronic devices.

Side by side, the government has the responsibility to recover all the playgrounds from the land grabbers and rebuild those with children friendly facilities, suggested the experts.



This covered van skidded off the Dhaka-Aricha highway and got stuck on the road divider as the driver lost control over the steering. The incident took place yesterday in Radio Colony area of Savar.

PHOTO: STAR

Mohamaya Lake Give Hasina 10 more years for development: Nasim

FROM PAGE 3

"Also, there should be better security arrangements, especially during the evening. Amusement facilities should also be increased...to draw more visitors," he suggested.

Humaun Kabir, an expatriate hailing from Mirsarai, said though beautiful, the lake remains neglected.

He said during his recent visit, he got disappointed over the poor maintenance of the landscape as it was filled with waste. Also, local goons were running a chain of slums in the area, creating a security concern for the visitors, he alleged.

Talking to the news agency, Akbaruddin Ahmad, a former president of Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh, said, "Though Mohamaya is one of the potential tourist spots, people hardly know about it for a lack of publicity."

He said Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB), which is mainly responsible for promoting and branding the tourist spots has not been playing any role in this regard. "Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation can invest for the development of the spot or can hand it over to any private company."

Suman Talukder, former senior vice president of Bangladesh Inbound Tour Operators' Association, echoed Ahmad.

He said, "We are now sending locals and tour-

ists to Mohamaya on our own initiatives as people don't know about it. Mohamaya will be able to draw huge tourists, including foreign ones, if the government can brand it as a tourist destination through publicity and development."

Contacted, Dr Nasir Uddin, chief executive officer of Bangladesh Tourism Board, said he will gather information about Mohamaya Lake and take steps for making it known to local and foreign tourists.

Zia Ahmed Suman, upazila nirbahai officer of Mirsarai, said the government has taken initiatives, including improving the approach road, setting up an Ansar camp, constructing washrooms and toilets and replacing the engine-run boats with battery-run ones, to make the spot secure and more attractive.

About the slums devolved near the spot, the UNO said he has already directed the authorities concerned to demolish the shanties.

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অফিস স্পেস ভাড়া

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BSS, Sirajganj

Awami League presidium member and Health Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday called upon the people to give Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 10 more years to govern for further development of the country.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has become a country of peace. Staying in state power, Awami League did not create anything like 'Hawa Bhaban' or patronise terrorism. So, with the love of people, the 'boat' will again achieve victory in the next general election

under Sheikh Hasina's dynamic leadership," he said.

The minister came up with the remarks at a public rally at Kazipur Upazila Parishad playground, marking the laying of foundation stone for the extended administrative building of the parishad and launching of a digital network at Kazipur sadar union.

Nasim said terrorism had initiated in the country during the regime of BNP and created Hawa Bhaban to misuse money.

He said if BNP came to power, the entire

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