

900 children getting education in 10 jails

BSS, Dhaka

More than 900 children of female prisoners in 10 jails across the country are being given pre-primary education to enlighten them with knowledge and culture.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy is giving lessons in Bangla reading and writing, mathematics, fine arts, craft, dance, song, physical exercise, acting, story writing, sports, environment and health, Tarikul Islam, an official concerned of the academy, told the news agency yesterday.

As per the curriculum of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), the Shishu Academy is implementing the education programme for the children in jails under the project "Preprimary Education for Flourishing of Children", he said.

"The Shishu Academy is implementing the programme, funded by women and children affairs ministry, by setting up 'pre-education centers' inside 10 jails across the country involving the children of different ages starting from four years," Tarikul added.

The jails include Dhaka Central Jail, Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur, Rangpur Jail, Rajshahi Jail, Chittagong Jail, Mymensingh Jail, Jessore Jail, Comilla Jail, Sylhet Jail and Barisal Jail.

The project supplies education materials, including textbooks, exercise books, pens, pencils and toys, to the centres in the prisons, the official said.

Besides, the district education offices provide guides to teachers recruited under the project. The district education offices are also supplying necessary books, including Amar Boi and Eso Likhte Shikhi.

A meeting is held with guardians of the children at every centre every month.

The project was launched at Dhaka Central Jail in March 2010 and at other jails in April the same year, according to Shishu Academy officials.

In the first phase of the project, 800 children participated in painting competitions where children from eight jails participated till December last year. Hundred more such children participated in such competition this month, they said, adding that the second phase is still going on.

Rupa Akter from Comilla Jail came first position while Mukta from Dhaka Central Jail and Shanta from Kashimpur secured the second and third positions respectively.

The winners received their prizes at a programme at the Shishu Academy in the capital on World Children's Day 2017.

Shishu Academy Director Anjir Litan said many children are staying in jails with their mothers. The government has launched the pre-primary education programme for those children to rear them as worthy citizens, he added.

The children are getting education facilities under this programme even after going out of the jails.



Fishermen catch fish using a type of banned net (locally known as bosta net) from a water body in Pagla area of Sunamganj. Varieties of fry and mother fish are being caught from different areas of Sylhet by using these nets indiscriminately. As a result, native fish stocks are in serious decline. Contacted, the fisheries department of the district said due to a lack of manpower they are unable to conduct regular drives to stop this menace. The photos were taken on Wednesday.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH NASIR

Ctg youth stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A youth was stabbed to death near his house in Chittagong city's Suparipara early yesterday.

Some seven miscreants first waylaid Mohammad Imon, 26, employee of a local workshop, when he was returning home from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) along with his cousin Lipon, and stabbed him in his right thigh. Lipon managed to flee, said Double Mooring police.

Imon died at CMCH. Motive for the attack could not be determined immediately, said police, adding that Imon's cell phone was not found near his body.

Ctg homeowners resent rent-based holding tax

To lay siege to offices of ward councillors today

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Shah Alam used to pay Tk 20,000 as holding tax per year to the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for his three-storey building at Muhuri Para in Uttar Agrabad area. But after the recent reassessment, his holding tax now stands at Tk 1.5 lakh.

Terming it inconceivable, he said, "If the tax realisation is so high, we have to leave our own home. If I'm to pay this exorbitant amount, I won't be able to maintain my living standard."

Homeowners in the port city are in panic after the CCC's recent reassessment that will collect holding tax based on house rent.

Earlier, the authorities collected the holding tax as per the size of the estab-

lishment but during the ongoing tax reassessment, which ended in this year's August, they proposed the change.

Seeking anonymity, an official of the CCC revenue department said the previous system was unable to assess the true valuation of a building as it was done mostly based on estimation.

In the earlier system, there was no specific guideline on how to realise holding tax. CCC used to collect tax based on per square feet (Tk 1 to Tk 5) of a respective building depending on the locality, the official added.

Homeowners have been opposing the CCC move since the rent-based reassessment, saying the tax amount is much higher and its impact will also fall on the tenants.

Venting his frustration to The Daily

Star, Mir Tarek, a resident of Mirpara, said, "I used to pay Tk 25,000 as holding tax for my three-storey building. Now CCC demands Tk 3.4 lakh as holding tax, which is illogical in every sense."

A platform of homeowners, "Kordata Surokha Parishad" (taxpayers' protection council) has been staging demonstrations against the reassessment and demanding that the CCC restore the previous system of realising the holding tax.

As a protest, homeowners will lay siege to the offices of 10 ward councillors today. The sit-in programme was declared at a press conference held at Chittagong Press Club yesterday organised by the Parishad.

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22-DAY BAN ON HILSA FISHING 157 Barisal fishermen jailed in six days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A total of 157 fishermen have been sentenced to different terms of imprisonment in Barisal division in the last six days (Oct 1 to Oct 6) for violating the ongoing ban on hilsa fishing, according to the fisheries department.

The 22-day ban on catching and selling hilsa for safe spawning of the fish started on October 1.

The department also conducted around 262 mobile court drives, seized 2.77 metric tonnes of hilsa, fined fishermen Tk 3.4 lakh and destroyed 12.96 lakh metres of nets within the last six days. It also seized two trawlers and two boats.

Meanwhile, 11 more fishermen were sentenced to jail in Barisal yesterday morning for violating the ongoing ban.

The department of fisheries with the help of the river police conducted drives in the Kalabadar, Kirtankhola and Arial Kha rivers and made the arrest.

A mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Moazzam Haque Chowdhury, sentenced the fishermen to 30-day imprisonment, said Bimal Chandra Das, district fishery officer.

Around 40kg of hilsa and 8,000 metres of nets were also seized, he added.

Five drugs peddlers held in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) arrested five people with 25 kilogrammes of cannabis and 40 Yaba pills in Amtoli and Keranirtek areas of Tongi in Gazipur yesterday.

Md Babu, 25, of Dhaka's Uttar Kafrul, Mujibur Rahman, 60, of Ashkona area, Babu Mia, 28, of Kochukhet area, Rahima Khatun, 50, of Himardighi of Tongi, and Enamul Haque, 36, of Keranirtek.

Of them, Md Babu and Mujibur were sentenced to two-year imprisonment each by a mobile court. Another Babu was sentenced for one and a half years.

2 held over 'raping, robbing' girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two youths in the last two days on charges of raping and robbing a teenage girl a week ago at a Mirpur hotel in Dhaka.

Shariful Islam alias Sajib was arrested in the capital's Badda yesterday and Humayun Kabir Shakil in Bhairab of Kishoreganj the day before, said Farukul Alam, inspector (investigation) of Darussalam Police Station.

In primary interrogation, police came to learn that the 16-year-old college girl in Tangail grew a relationship with Shariful over phone.

When the girl's parents wanted to marry her off, she took around Tk 30,000 in cash and several jewellery items from the house before eloping with Shariful.

On September 29, they checked in a Gabtoli hotel in Dhaka. Later, Shariful stole her money and valuables and fled the hotel.

Meantime, she received a phone call from her cousin who asked her to come to Gazipur. While wandering about near Shah Ali Mazar at Mirpur, she met one Shakil, who assured her of taking to Gazipur.

At one stage, the girl fell sick and Shakil took her to a local hotel. There he drugged and raped her before fleeing the scene, said police.

Later, locals rescued her from the hotel. She was admitted to the one stop crisis centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors primarily found evidence of rape on Monday.



Children visiting a photo exhibition organised by Chittagong Photo Journalists Association and Radisson Blu Chittagong Bay View Hotel on the hotel premises yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

2 Rohingya brothers held with Yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) yesterday arrested two more Rohingya refugees with 3,000 Yaba pills near Ujala Hotel in Chittagong city's station road area.

The brothers, Abul Kashem, 23, and Raja Mia, 18, sons of Abul Hossain, of Noapara Rohingya camp in Teknaf, fled into Bangladesh from Myanmar a month ago and got involved with Yaba peddling for making a quick buck, said DNC's Assistant Director Zillur Rahman.

A case was lodged.

A total of 10 Rohingya refugees have been arrested with Yaba pills in the port city since the influx began on August 25.

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Road crashes kill three Gandhi

CITY DESK

Three people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Jamalpur correspondent reports, two motorcyclists were killed when their vehicles collided head-on on Dewanganj-Baksiganj road at Khutarchar village in Dewanganj upazila of the district.

The dead are Monowar Hossain, 18, of village Khutarchar in Bahadurabad union, and Ratan, 19, of village Madonerchar in the union.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, a person was killed and two others were injured in a road accident in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

Minara Begum, 35, of village Jagannathpur, died on the spot when a truck hit her on Parbatipur-Saidpur road in the village.

The truck driver, Mohammad Manik, and his helper Khairul Islam were also injured as the vehicle veered out of control and plunged into a roadside ditch.

Locals rushed the injured to Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex.

Gandhi

FROM PAGE 3

waged a movement of "non-violent civil disobedience" to overthrow the then government and eventually did it.

Acknowledging his concept of establishing peace and harmony, the United Nations General Assembly voted in June 2007 to declare Gandhi's birthday, October 2, the International Day of Non-Violence.

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