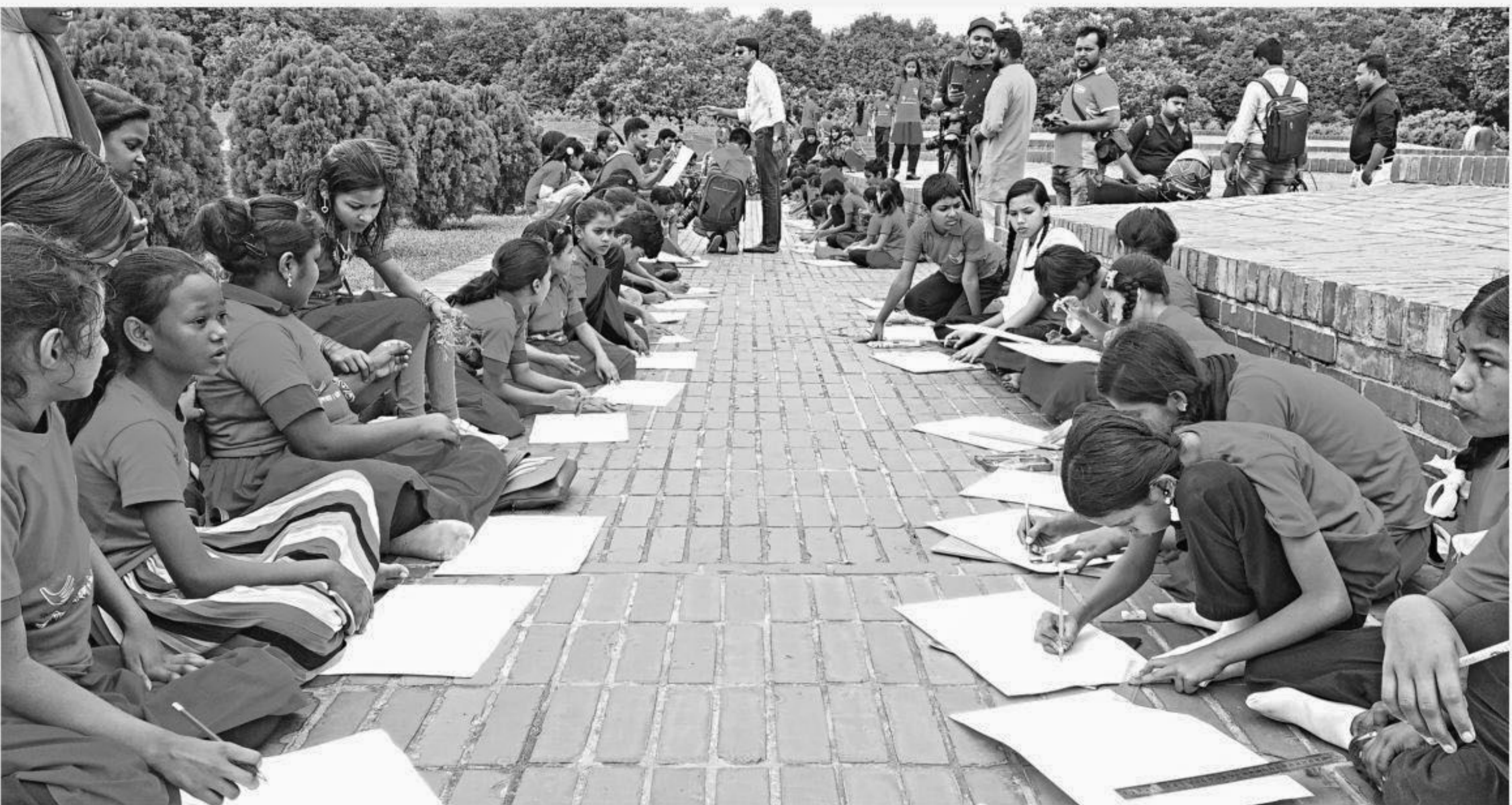


Art competition for disadvantaged children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An art competition for disadvantaged children was held at the National Memorial premises in Savar on Wednesday. SpaandanB, a local non-profit organisation and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs jointly organised the event, to raise awareness about the National Memorial and Liberation War among the underprivileged children. Over 600 children from several schools of SpaandanB participated in the competition. After the competition, children and officials of the organisation, sang the national anthem and placed floral wreaths at the National Memorial. Prizes were also given away among the winners. Md Mahmudul Hasan, program coordinator of SpaandanB said, the event was aimed to raise awareness about the National Memorial and Liberation War. Earlier such events were organised in several historical places including Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka. Currently there are 1200 students in four schools run by the organisation, two in Mohamammadpur, and one in Gabtoli and Kalyanpur each. Ripa Aktar, a student of grade four of SpaandanB School in Gabtoli said, she was very excited about visiting the historic site. SpaandanB is formed by expatriate Bangladeshis.



Children participating in the art competition at National Memorial.

PHOTO: STAR

Digital

FROM PAGE 5

Chairing the sit-in, BFUJ President Ruhul Amin Gazi said the law has created an insecure environment for all citizens, including journalists.

Because of the act, none will be able to write or speak freely, he said, terming the law "undemocratic".

"The law has been enacted so that nobody can criticise the government," said former BFUJ president Shawkat Mahmud.

He urged all to unite and wage a movement against the law.

President Abdul Hamid on Monday signed the Digital Security Bill. With his assent, the bill has become a law.

Amid widespread criticism against some of its provisions, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury on October 2 signed the bill passed in parliament on September 19.

PM gives Tk 20cr

FROM PAGE 3

Information Secretary Abdul Malek, Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) and Managing Director of the Journalist Welfare Trust Md Shah Alamgir, former BFUJ president Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Information Officer (PIO) Kamrun Nahar, BFUJ secretary general Saban Mahmud, president of Dhaka Union

of Journalists Abu Jafor Surja and general secretary Sohail Haider Chowdhury were present.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina initiated the trust fund in 2014 by giving seed money of Tk 5 crore, which later got more money from a number of private media houses raising the total to Tk 15 crore over the last four years.

Half of country's

FROM PAGE 3

"Poor water quality and sanitation can hold back a country's potential because unsafe water and poor sanitation are linked to nutritional disadvantages in early childhood," said Sreen Juma, World Bank acting country director.

"In Bangladesh, more than one-third of children under [the age of] five are stunted, limiting their ability to grow and learn," he said. "Bangladesh has made great strides in expanding access to water and can build on that progress by focusing on improving the quality of water and sanitation."

"Only about half of manufacturing enterprises in Bangladesh have toilets. Only half of the primary schools have separate toilets for girls, and one in four adolescent girls miss school during menstruation," said George Joseph, World Bank senior economist and co-author of the report.

A safe water and sanitation environment would encourage more women to partici-

pate in the workforce, he said, adding that there is scope for Bangladesh to improve access to sanitation beyond the household level to public places, schools, health facilities, and workplaces.

Speaking as chief guest, Md Nazrul Islam, state minister for water resources, said the government is working on improvement of water and sanitation, and the report's findings would be helpful for further work.

This report is a part of the World Bank's WASH Poverty Diagnostics initiative in 18 countries, including Bangladesh.

Khairul Islam, country director of WaterAid, and Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre spoke, among others.

TurnIndia Education Pvt Ltd Regional Director (South Asia) Ashim Sachdeva said policing faults should not be the sole priority, and parents should get involved in their children's activities to instill values.

Reserve 5pc

FROM PAGE 3

only stop their movement if they receive assurance from her.

Physically challenged students of different universities and colleges, including Dhaka University, joined yesterday's protest. Chhatra league General Secretary Golam Rabbani visited the protesters at around 1:00pm and extended his support.

"We are a community that lags behind and deserves the chance to move forward. To realise our demands, we would observe hunger strike if necessary, but would not leave the streets until our demands are met," another protestor Kulsum Lipi told The Daily Star.

The students continued their demonstration till 5:00pm and ended it by holding a press conference.

The platform also placed their 11-point demand, including reservation of 10 percent quota for class-III and class-IV jobs, implementation of quota for physically challenged people in all government, autonomous and semi-autonomous jobs, and formation of a separate ministry for them.

Plagiarism an

FROM PAGE 3

unfamiliar with scholarly writing.

Ending the practice requires building a culture, he said, demanding that the industry finance research and development, and ensure retention of originality of ideas.

Manzoor Hasan, executive director of the university's Centre for Peace and Justice, questioned whether the prevailing social fragility resulted from a lack of integrity and whether governance and development should overlap.

He pointed out that the national integrity strategy should start at micro level and set a standard, as exemplified by recent student protests on complying with the rule of law, while suggestions could be taken from the United Nations convention against corruption.

Prof K Shamsuddin Mahmood, dean of the School of Law at the university, said no statute of the country addresses the issue of plagiarism, while the UK is considering criminalising contractual cheating.

He too urged industry owners to encourage inventions by facilitating patents for employees.

Fishermen

FROM PAGE 5

Badrul Alam of Bangladesh Farmers' Federation said fishermen who fish in inundated fields, do not get just price due to influence of middlemen.

In a keynote presentation, Mujibul Haque Munir, assistant director of COAST Trust, which coordinates activities of organisations comprised of fishermen, said annual hilsa catch stands at about Tk 8.2 billion, which is 12 percent of the country's annual fish production.

He said some three million people are involved in hilsa fishing, but they are often deprived of their rights.

Mustafa Kamal Akanda of COAST Trust said contribution of the fisheries sector to GDP is 3.57 percent and the authorities should consider fishermen's issues with utmost importance.

Return

FROM PAGE 3

a conference in Turkey. He is scheduled to return on October 14, said SC's special officer Barrister Md Saifur Rahman.

Manna submitted his passport to the CMM in 2016 in line with a condition issued by the SC for upholding the High Court orders granting him bail in two cases filed over sedition and inciting the army.

Advocate Md Idrisur Rahman appeared for Manna.

Curtain falls on

FROM PAGE 5

were in nine upazilas of the district in the 1990s, Ahsan Kabir Liton, president of Rajshahi Film Society said.

In 2000, the total number of cinema halls went down to 25. Three cinema halls of the city and 20 cinema halls of the upazilas were closed or demolished between 2002 and 2011.

Rajshahi New Market is situated in front of Upohar, and the area is known after it -- Upohar Cinema Hall crossing.

Upohar, with a seating capacity of over 1,000, began operations in April 1985 through screening of "Anyar Abichar", an Indo-Bangladesh joint venture film directed by Shakti Samanta. Rozina, Mithun Chakrabarty, and Utpal Dutt shared the screen in the film, said hall employee Zahangir Alam.

The hall was popular among the students, film lovers and even low-income groups for its reasonably-priced tickets, Ahsan Kabir Liton said.

"It's harsh to hear that there will be no cinema halls in Rajshahi city, where celebrated filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak once strolled," litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque lamented.

The areas near Kolpona, Smriti and Bornali cinema halls are still called by the name of the halls, but the halls themselves do not exist anymore.

In places of Kolpona and Aloka (later renamed Smriti cinema hall) in the city, owners constructed multi-storey buildings for commercial purposes, while the site for the other, Bornali Cinema Hall, is still unused due to legal complexities.

Cinema hall owners think in economic terms, and they are closing the halls one after another as the country's films are not being able to draw viewers, Rajshahi divisional coordinator of Bangladesh Gram Theater Association Kamarullah Sarker said.

"Upohar hall was not facing the problem. It has viewers. I along with friends watched many shows of good films the hall had brought," he said.

Rajshahi mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton also condemned the decision of closing the cinema hall.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said a large fraction of city dwellers and people of other areas of the district would be deprived from a source of recreation once the cinema hall is closed.

The mayor said he would encourage private entrepreneurs to construct a modern cineplex in the city soon.

JAAZ MULTIMEDIA EAGER TO OPERATE UPOHAR Meanwhile, Jaz Multimedia, one of the leading producers and distributors of mainstream films in the country, has shown interest in operating the cinema hall.

"We have placed an offer to the owners of Upohar cinema hall to run it," Abdul Aziz, chairman of Jaz Multimedia, told The Daily Star.

Aziz added that his company is currently running operations of 23 cinema halls in the country.

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