

Education in shambles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 70 per cent of the government and non-government educational institutions in the country are either below- or semi-standard, says a Ministry of Education survey.

The survey, which covers 23,000 non-government schools and colleges, marks 597 institutions, or 2.6 per cent, as high standard and 6,939, or 30.26 per cent, standard. More than 36 per cent or 8,330 are below standard and 30.82 per cent or 7,067 semi-standard.

The grading of an institution has been done based on its performance in public examinations, teacher-student ratio, physical infrastructure, and library and laboratory facilities.

"The survey was conducted to assess the standard and infrastructure of educational institutions in the country," Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk told journalists at a briefing yesterday where he revealed the findings of the survey.

The briefing was organised as part of the government programme to mark its one year in power.

Quality	No of institutions	Percentage
High standard	597	2.60
Standard	6,939	30.26
Semi-standard	7,067	30.82
Below-standard	8,330	36.32

*Source: Ministry of Education

The minister said the survey, undertaken as the prime minister's 100-day programme, covered nearly 87 per cent of some 30,000 government and non-government schools and colleges in the country.

"The government has taken a massive restructuring programme to improve the standard of education in different educational institutions," Farruk said.

The minister said in some schools only 15 appear at the public examinations and only five pass. On the other hand, there are some schools where none of the examinees succeed in public examinations for years together.

Schools performing below par will be excluded from the monthly pay order (MPO), he said. "The MPO is not a permanent settlement."

The government pay about Taka 1,850 crore every year as teachers salary and benefits. Each educational institution receives Tk 14.66 lakh on an average per year.

There should be logic behind the huge government spending in teachers' salary and other benefits, Farruk said.

However, a final decision will be sought from the cabinet in this regard, a key official of the ministry told The Daily Star recently.

Doctor raped in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lady doctor was allegedly raped by a house-owner when she went to rent a flat for her chamber at South Mugdapara in the city's Sabujbagh area yesterday.

The physician, aged about 32 and mother of two kids, went to a four-storey building at 80/1 South Mugdapara at about 11:30am to rent the flat.

The house-owner, Rabiul Islam, and his caretaker came down from the top floor and took her inside the empty flat to be let out. At one stage, the house-owner asked the caretaker to buy some cold drinks for the guest. As soon as the caretaker went out, Rabiul raped her at gunpoint, the doctor alleged.

After being raped, the victim went to the Sabujbagh Police Station filed a rape case. Police sent her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for medical check-up and later, she was admitted to the one-point crisis center.

The Sabujbagh police confirmed the incident and said they sent forces to the house. But the house-owner had already fled home.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

IMF review of financial sector starts today

STAR REPORT

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will start a three-week review on the country's financial sector today to assess its strength, weakness and vulnerability to external shock.

The three-week scrutiny will also evaluate the compatibility of the sector with international standards on financial regulations, supervision and transparency.

The IMF will also see how the Bangladesh financial sector complies with the Basle core principle in effective securities regulations and is safeguarded against international terrorist financing.

The measures for anti-money laundering will be brought into special focus and the mission will check if the Bangladesh Bank's new regulations are foolproof.

Although the Bangladesh Bank improved its supervision and monitoring mechanism under the finan-

cial sector reforms programme, classified loans are still as high as 39 per cent mainly because of management problem, political interference and weak loan assessment.

The finance ministry also formed a committee to look into the default loan problem and make recommendations for improvement.

The IMF team will sit with the central bank, the finance ministry, capital market players, the insurance sector and bankers to check up on the points of assessment.

Under the financial sector assessment programme, the team will draw an aide-memoire and place it before the fund board meeting for possible assistance to Bangladesh.

The IMF mission will look into the oversight system and principles of payment system, among others. It will also check whether the IMF code of good practice on transparency of monetary and financial policies is followed.

ONE YEAR OF COALITION RULE

Coercion runs high

REAZ AHMAD

Relations between the government and the main opposition soured over frequent incidents of coercion and alleged harassment of political leaders and activists in the last one year.

The opposition leaders were often barred from holding scheduled meetings, their leaders and activists attacked and allegedly tortured in police detention.

And one year down the line, the hostility between the two sides intensified rather than the relations

moving towards a constructive role both in and outside the parliament.

Some government leaders often tried to justify such treatment of the opposition as a backlash to the AL for its repression on the then opposition during its rule.

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