

## NON-GOVT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Nationalisation of teachers' service remains elusive

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The nationalisation of some 90,000 non-government primary school teachers' jobs seems to remain a far cry, despite being one of the electoral pledges of the ruling BNP.

The teachers of over 22,000 registered primary schools have been waging a movement for nationalisation of their jobs for 11 years, but their demand remains unheeded.

While the previous three budgets of the present government did not reflect the teachers' aspiration, they hope the government will meet their demand this time as the fourth budget is being placed today.

In its electoral manifesto in 2001, the BNP mentioned that "the Department of Primary and Mass Education will be reinforced and all the non-government primary schools will be converted into government schools."

Sources said the teachers were informed in April that the secretary of the primary and mass education ministry has sent a recommendation to the prime minister to consider

the nationalisation of teachers' service and other facilities.

But a senior official of the ministry said, "The annual budget has already been prepared and initial inputs have been furnished. Most probably there was nothing special in the recommendation."

Another official said that if the finance ministry gave its endorsement in writing for allocation of funds in this regard, the recommendation would reach the prime minister.

"We want the registered primary teachers to receive an increased salary and there is also a possibility of nationalising their service," he added.

Md Shamsul Alam, president of the Non-government Primary Teachers' Association, said, "Nationalising the service of the teachers was the electoral pledge of the prime minister. But now we see that it was just a political gimmick to win the support of teachers as there was no reflection of the electoral pledge even in the budget of 2004-05 fiscal year."

Beside 37,709 government primary schools in the country, the

2,989 community schools and 22,836 registered primary schools are working to meet the millennium goal - education for all by 2015.

But the registered primary schoolteachers have been struggling hard to make ends meet as the trained teachers receive only Tk 2,064 and the untrained Tk 1,858 as monthly salaries while the government primary schoolteachers receive between Tk 3,910 and 10,000, inclusive of various allowances.

Under the new pay scale, the government will provide 90 percent of the increased salary to the registered primary teachers, but they still do not know when they will start receiving the money.

"The primary and mass education ministry will need to take permission from the finance ministry as we are not government employees. We are appointed by the local managing committee and now we don't know when we will start receiving the salary as per the new pay scale," said Shamsul Alam.

## Indo-Bangla irritants can be resolved thru' talks

## FM tells Kolkata journalists

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said that West Bengal could be a bridge between Bangladesh and India for improving bilateral ties.

"That is because people in West Bengal and Bangladesh belong to same culture, history, tradition and language," Morshed said when a Kolkata Press Club delegation paid a courtesy call on him at his office.

He said there is no major issue like Kashmir between Bangladesh and India. There are some irritants that can be resolved through discussions for the benefit of the two peoples.

He deplored that "when we make some progress in our relations, one small irritant would push us back. But we don't have any problem like Kashmir... We can overcome the small irritants that we have through discussions."

He said West Bengal journalists can play a significant role in improving the relations between the two next door neighbours. He also stressed that Bangladeshi journalists should maintain regular contacts with Kolkata journalists.

On the proposed river-linking project of India, West Bengal journalists said there are some opposition within India against the river-linking project, which is not feasible.

They said that the new Indian government might not go ahead with the project initiated by the past government as a "political stunt."

Kolkata Press Club President Raj Mithauli of Hindustan Times and General Secretary Snehasis Sura of Dur Darshan led the six-member delegation. DG (South Asia) Fazul Karim, DGEP Zahur Haque and National Press Club Vice-President Nurul Huda and General Secretary Sawkat Mahmud were present.



PHOTO: STAR  
Parents of Sabequunnahar Sony, a Buet student, visit the memorial to her on the occasion of her third death anniversary yesterday. Sony was killed on the campus in a crossfire during a gunfight between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhata Dal in 2002.

## Take stern action against those creating anarchy on campus

## Badruddoza asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

chief guest.

The press conference was held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity's (DRU) auditorium.

Kawsary Islam said that she

booked the community centre for the

programme on June 1. "But law-

maker Pintu threatened from a JCD

meeting in Lalbagh on June 6 of

spoiling our programme at any cost

and asked local JCD and Jubo Dal

men to carry out his order," she added.

She demanded exemplary punishment

to the perpetrators.

"We have decided to file a case

with the court as the local police

refused to register any case in this

connection" she said.

"I filed a general diary with

Lalbagh police station on June 5 for

safety, but police did not take any

step in this regard," she said.

Dudh Mia's father Azimuddin,

mother Alimunnesa, son Johnny,

daughter Beauty and Seema were

also present at the press conference.

BNP MP Pintu could not be

reached over phone for his version

despite several attempts yesterday.

Badruddoza also pointed out that

it is time to think seriously whether

teachers should involve themselves in

mainstream politics directly.

Demanding more facilities for the

teachers, the BDB chairman called

for increasing budgetary allocation

for the education sector to improve

the quality of education.

Criticising the BNP-led coalition

government, he said the leaders and activists of the opposition parties are being tortured across the country.

Speaking at the meeting, Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said, "If we want to make the educational institutions free from violence, we have to first make the country free from bad politics."

He said that a vested quarter is trying to deliberately make the educational institutions dysfunctional.

He also said that only unity among the students could drive out arms and black money from the campus.

BDB leader Firoz M Hasan, Oikya Mancha leader Mofizul Islam Khan Kamal and Sayedur Rahman also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR  
Jubo Moiti stages a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding jobs for unemployed youths and reduction in budgetary allocation in defence sector.

DHAKA TODAY

## Blue for Peace

A rally will be held as part of the 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding trial of the killers of former finance minister Shah ASM Kibria. Venue: In front of Malancha, House # 58, Road # 3/A, Dhamondi. Time: 5:00pm.

Bangladesh Hindu, Buddha and Christian Oikya Parishad will hold a rally to mark the 'Black Day' protesting the eighth amendment to the Constitution. Venue: Muktagan. Time: 4:30pm.

## Meeting

The national committee of Vested (Enemy) Property Act Resistance Movement will hold a meeting. Venue: Shaheed Asad Auditorium, 31/F Topkhana Road. Time: 6:00pm.

## Rotary Greater Dhaka

Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Members are requested to attend the meeting. Venue: Hotel Eastern Residence, House # 14, Road # 27, Block # J, Banani. Time: 6:00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW  
Drawing competition

Sylhet Division Development Students Action Council organises a drawing competition for children as part of its campaign to save Osman Udayan. For participants aged 9 and under, the theme of the competition is 'Present condition of the Udayan', while for the children under the 9-12 age group, the theme is 'Portrait of Bangabir MAJ Osman'. Venue: Osman Udayan. Time: 4:00pm.

BUDGET 2005-06  
Non-govt teachers demand 100 pc govt salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the civil society in a joint statement yesterday expressed deep concerns over the authorities' decision to discontinue power supply to 66 Bihari Camps throughout the country.

They severely criticised the decision saying that such inhuman step greatly caused severe hardship to the people of the camps, including children, women and elderly.

Several death incidents have already taken place in the last few days in Geneva and Mirpur camps as the decision was taken when the country is experiencing an intolerable heat wave, the statement read.

The camp residents pay a certain amount for consumption of power but it never reaches to the state coffee, they added.

The signatories to the state-

ment included novelist Abdus Shakoor, poet Asad Chowdhury, litterateur Bashir Al Helal, Ittefaque editor in charge Rahat Khan, journalist Kamal Lohani, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid, Advocate Sultana F Nahar, journalist Afisan Chowdhury, lawyer Dr Shahend Malik and Prof Dr CR Abrar.

They demanded that there be arrangements for conveyance allowance of Tk 3,000 for the chairmen and Tk 2,000 for the members respectively.

"The demand is justified," said Jatiya Party MP GM Quader, "I will try to raise the issue in the upcoming budget session of the parliament."

The UP chairmen and members as public representatives should have a place in the warrant of precedence, he said.

Jamaat MP Moulana Abdus Sobhan and ruling BNP MP Mozammel Huq echoed GM Quader's view in this regard.

The forum leaders also said that frequent interference of the central government and bureaucratic control over the sources of revenue generation often incapacitate the UP authority as well as the growth of the 135-year old Union Parishad as a local government body.

They demanded for logistic supports like telephone to facilitate day to day functions of a Union Parishad.

They also urged the need for creating the posts of Tax Assessors and Tax Collectors, saying that they will increase the revenue collection of a UP significantly facilitating development works at local levels.

The BUPF Secretary General Mustakur Rahman, among a host of other UP chairmen and members, was present.

## Premiere show

The premiere show of a video film on violence against children, produced by Ichhey, a children media house, will be held. Venue: Biam Auditorium, 63 New Eskaton. Time: 3:45pm.

## Home Show-2005

The inaugural ceremony of Home Show-2005, an exclusive exhibition of furniture, electronics and home appliance, will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

## Seminar

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights organises a seminar titled 'Dowry is a social disease: It is duty of everybody to resist it, with Women and Children's Affairs Minister Begum Khurshid Jahan as chief guest. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10:30am.

## Film show

Academy Film Society will screen two films titled 'Zehar' and 'Blade Trinity'. Venue: Academy Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3:30pm and 6:30pm.

## Protest rally

Osmani Udayan. Time: 4:00pm.

## Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Advocate Yar Ahmed, a senior lawyer of Bangladesh Supreme Court, died of old age complications at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city on Tuesday at the age of 82.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at village Kochua of Feni after a namaz-e-janaza at Iqbal Road Jam-e-Mosque in Dhaka.

His qulukhwan will be held at House No-12, Road No 32, Dhanmondi after Magrib prayers tomorrow.

Abul Kalam Md Samsuddin

Abul Kalam Md Samsuddin Azad, a freedom fighter and retired senior official of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, passed away due to cancer at Kushtia Sadar Hospital on June 2 at the age of 58, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour after namaz-e-janaza at the Kushtia poura graveyard premises after Juma prayers on June 3.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Moderately heavy falls likely**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said.

Mild heat wave may prevail over Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Noakhali, Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Tangail.

Highest temperature 39.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:46pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.6	24.3	74	57
Chittagong	34.8	27.7	73	71
Rajshahi	37.0	24.0	63	62
Khulna	36.2	25.4	84	62
Barisal	35.8	26.6	81	65
Sylhet	33.3	24.3	96	76
Cox's Bazar	34.8	27.8	68	70