



PHOTO: STAR

Three children injured in a bomb explosion in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday afternoon are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). (Story on Page 16)

New Law on Microcredit NGO leaders meet CA to discuss problems

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of NGO leaders met Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday to discuss some problems with a new law being formulated to streamline microcredit operations in the country.

The chief adviser gave them a patient hearing and assured them that any problem related to the rules and regulations set out in the Microcredit Regulatory Authority Regulation 2008 could be resolved

through consultation before its finalisation.

Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed, ASA President Shafiqul Haq Chowdhury, NGO Federation Chairman M Ibrahim, CDF Chairman Atiur Rahman, ENAFI Chairman Zakir Hossain, director (finance) of Brac SM Koiri and NGO Federation Director M Tazul Islam were on the delegation.

Later, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahima Munaim, who was present at the meeting, briefed reporters on the meeting.

Tk 1200cr project launched to improve quality of education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said the boys will be given stipends from now on alongside the girls so that they do not lag behind in the education sector.

"We have achieved success in spreading female education by prioritising the girls, now we have taken decision to give stipends to

boys so that they do not lag behind the girls," said the adviser at a project launching workshop at LGED conference hall in the city.

The project titled 'Secondary education quality and access enhancement project (Seqaep)' aims at improving the quality of education by improving teaching-learning process.

The project focuses on two very important areas --first, it

aims at increasing access of both the poor boys and girls to education, and secondly to improve secondary school education with emphasis on Mathematics and English.

The six-year-long project starting from July 2008 will be implemented in 121 upazilas at a cost of Tk 1200 crore.

Speaking as chief guest the adviser said the project will help

improve quality of education.

"I hope the education ministry will see this project as flagship," he said, adding, this project will help students develop their reading habit.

The project also aims at strengthening classroom environment, he added.

Secretary to education ministry Momtazul Islam said the project will ensure equal access by

providing stipends and other incentives to poor boys and girls.

Vinaya Swaroop, acting country director of the World Bank, said the project is likely to contribute substantially to the country's long-term objective of human capital development for sustaining economic growth and poverty reduction.

"The World Bank is delighted to be a partner of the government

in this important project," he added.

Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, secretary to Planning Division, AMM Nasir Uddin, member of the Planning Commission, Aminul Islam Bhuiyan, secretary to Economic Relations Division, and Mohammad Mesbahuddin, chief of planning, Ministry of Education, also spoke at the workshop.



That'll be 10 souls please...

The Kissie Penny, or Gizzie Iron, are twisted iron rods, about 7 to 12 inches long, that were used for money in Liberia and Sierra Leone from the 19th to the mid 20th century. They were said to contain a soul. If the Kissie broke, the soul would escape and it would be valueless. Of course, the local witch doctor could restore the soul, for a small fee.

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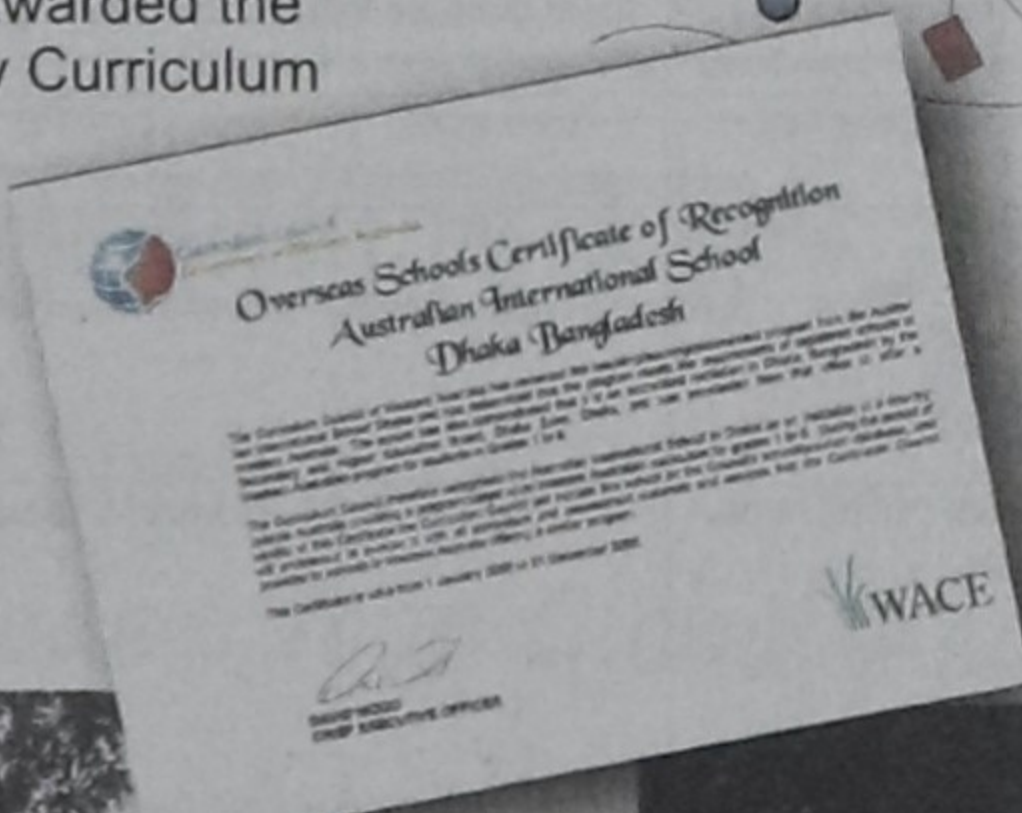


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