

Govt to fix all errors in textbooks: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government is going to correct all errors in the textbooks which will be available to students in 2011.

"The task of correcting major errors in the textbooks has already started and we will take the task in a massive scale for the textbooks that would be published next year," he said while speaking as chief guest at a seminar.

In the face of criticism of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) for publishing incorrect and substandard books, the minister said change in the textbooks must be brought and experts and academics are working to resolve the problems for publishing standard textbooks.

The seminar titled 'Human rights in the textbooks: What are the students learning?' was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

In his keynote paper, Dr Soumitra Shekhar, associate professor of Bangla department at Dhaka University, said the issues of human rights

were portrayed very vaguely and to some extent incorrectly in the textbooks of Bangla, Paribesh Parichiti and Samaj and Samajik Bigyan from class 1 to class 10.

Citing such errors, he said wrong concept about the indigenous and disabled, class division, priority of religion, dishonour to ethnic minority and ignorance about the village and villagers were marked in the textbooks.

Renowned educationist and founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said there should be an expert committee at the NCTB to correct the errors.

Educationist and dramatist Prof Momtaz Uddin Ahmed said changes should be brought to the curricula at all levels in every five years in the light of the demand of time.

"The existing curricula will not work anymore and it needs a massive change," he said, adding that the curricula experts must have knowledge about human rights and gender sensitivity.

Eminent educationist and writer Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said apart from good curricula and textbooks we need such an examination

system where the students will not depend on memorising the books.

He suggested religious studies mandatory up to class eight.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to caretaker government, said the curricula should be child-friendly.

She said those responsible for publishing textbooks must be competent to deal with human rights and gender issues.

Prof Ziaul Hasan said the curricula of primary level was formulated seven years ago while the curricula of the secondary level was formulated 17 years back.

The students are therefore studying the books written on the basis of the outdated curricula, he added.

"It is an urgent need to make correction in the textbooks and curricula," said Prof Hasfia Bashirullah, member (curricula) of NCTB.

Moderated by Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, the seminar was also addressed by noted litterateur Selina Hossain, Segufta Yasmin Emily MP, and Abdul Qayyum, deputy editor of the Prothom Alo.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid speaks at a seminar on 'Human rights in textbooks: What are the students learning?' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Rasheda K Chowdhury.

More industrial parks to be set up: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will set up more industrial parks for local and foreign investments.

She made the remark while chairing the 15th meeting of the board of governors of non-government export processing zones (EPZs) at the PM's office in the morning.

Hasina told the meeting that the expatriate Bangladeshis would be motivated to invest in the industrial parks and they would be given special facilities in this regard.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the news-

men after the meeting, saying the meeting of the non-government EPZs was held with a 13-point agenda after a gap of two years.

The premier gave assurance that the government would ensure congenial atmosphere for investment.

She also laid emphasis on making investments abiding by the existing laws of the land.

The previous Awami League government in 1997 allocated lands for setting up the Korean EPZ in Chittagong under the Bangladesh non-government EPZ Act, 1996 but the next BNP-led government did not issue the license for establishing the EPZ.

However, licenses were issued later to establish the Korean EPZ and the Rangunia EPZ.

The meeting was told that employment for nearly 3,50,000 people would be created if the Korean and Rangunia EPZ become fully operational.

Finance Minister AMA Muhiith, Adviser to the PM Dr Mashiur Rahman, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Shipping Minister Afsarul Amin, State Minister for Power and Energy Shamsul Haque Tuku, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman, Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz and secretaries of the ministries were present in the meeting.

BNP trying to make JS ineffective: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday alleged that the main opposition BNP is hatching conspiracy to make the Jatiya Sangsad ineffective over seat arrangement in the front row of the House.

Addressing a discussion at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city, the AL leaders urged BNP to join the parliament session and speak in favour of their demands in a bid to make the parliament effective. They also urged the government to take immediate measures to bring the war criminals to book.

AL organised the discussion to mark the historic Six-Point Day.

AL Presidium Member and deputy leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

Urging BNP to join the parliament, AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said AL was given only six seats in the front row during the BNP-Jamaat coalition government amidst 62 seats and now BNP is demanding 10 seats in the front row after winning only 30 seats.

"Is that logical?" he posed a question.

Another Presidium Member Matia Chowdhury said different tactics have been taken to make the parliament ineffective over the seat arrangement. Matia, also agriculture minister, said no conspiracy would be successful like the February 25-26 carnage at the BDR headquarters.

Suranjit Sengupta, another

presidium member, urged the government to appoint prosecutor and form a tribunal to try the war criminals under the existing laws.

Presidium members Amir Hossain Amu and Abdur Razzak, State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam also spoke.

10 hurt as BCL factions clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 students were injured in a clash between two feuding factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University campus in the capital yesterday.

The students also ransacked several rooms at Kabi Nazrul and Sher-e-Bangla halls.

Of the injured, Zannat Chowdhury of Sirajuddaula hall, Humayun Kabir of Sher-e-Bangla, and Zulkarni-al-Refaei and Zannatul Hasan Nipun of Kabi Nazrul hall were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while others took treatment from nearby clinics.

Nipun at DMCH told The Daily Star that the clash ensued about 3:00 pm when around 50 supporters of Shaon group equipped with rods and sticks attacked the supporters of Zannat group on the first floor of Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

An altercation between the supporters of two factions over watching a cricket match on television Tuesday night at the university auditorium was behind all this, sources said.



Lt Gen Mubeen takes over as army chief June 15

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Md Abdul Mubeen will take over his charge officially on June 15, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

The President has appointed Gen Mubeen as the army chief for three years from June 15, 2009 to June 15, 2012, said an ISPR release.

He will succeed General Moeen U Ahmed.

Lt Gen Mubeen will also be promoted to the rank of General with effect from June 15.

General Moeen U Ahmed will proceed on retirement from June 15 on completion of his tenure of service, said another notification issued by the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

DU senate polls held, results tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The final phase of voting to elect 25 representatives of the registered graduates to the Dhaka University senate ended peacefully on the campus yesterday.

Starting at 9:00am, the voting continued till 5:00pm at Teachers-Student Centre and the gymnasium centre of the university.

A total of 10,878 voters have cast their votes in the election. The first and second phase voting were held at 39 centres outside Dhaka on May 23 and 31.

The counting of votes will be held today and results would be declared tomorrow.

Candidates of Awami League-backed Gonotantrik Oikya Parishad panel and BNP-Jamaat backed Jatiyatabadi Oikya Parishad panel contested the election.

Jatiyatabadi Oikya Parishad brought some oral allegations of irregularities in casting votes, but no written allegation was found in this regard.

A candidate of the panel Prof Nurul Islam (voter card no. 44), however, told reporters that a group of youth harassed him in front of the TSC polling centre in the morning.

Acting DU Registrar Syed Rezaul Rahman told reporters that they did not receive any allegation of irregularities in the election.

College student stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals stabbed a Tejgaon College student to death in the city's Dakkhin Khan area early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Imran Hossain, 19, a first year student of the college and a resident of Lalbagh area.

Dakkhin Khan police recovered the body from a field at Dakkhin Para at around 12:30pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body bore several marks of stab injuries.

Police said he might have been killed somewhere else early yesterday, but the body was dumped there.

Nazma Begum, mother of the deceased, said he came home on Tuesday night and went out on Wednesday morning after receiving several calls over cellphone.

During the last few months, he went beyond their control and would stay outside, she said, adding that she talked with her son for the last time on Saturday evening when he told her that he would leave the company of his wicked friends and come back home to lead an honest life.

27TH BCS EXAMS JS body for appointment of 1st phase candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary sub-committee on establishment ministry yesterday said it will recommend to the government through the main committee to appoint 1,022 BCS candidates, who had qualified in the first phase of the 27th BCS examination.

Headed by lawmaker ABM Ghulam Mostafa, the sub-committee is likely to submit its report with recommendations on June 14.

"We have agreed in principle to make recommendation so that the examinees who were dropped from first phase of 27th BCS examination are appointed," said ABM Ghulam Mostafa while talking to The Daily Star after a meeting at the parliament building.

The sub-committee, formed by the parliamentary standing committee on establishment ministry, yesterday also discussed legal aspects of the recommendations it wants to make.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Unnayan Shamannay with support from CUTS, India will organise a seminar on 'Impact of trade liberalisation on Bangladesh agriculture: The cases of sugarcane and poultry'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

The Hunger Project-Bangladesh organises a roundtable on humanisation of poverty disputes. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

View exchange meeting

NFOWD organises a view exchange meeting on time-bound law to protect rights of people with disability. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a nine-day exhibition on weaving industry titled 'Sound of weaving' will be held. Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Time: 3:30pm. Anjans organises the event.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met office said.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 24.1 degree at Satkhira.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.7	26.3	63	88
Chittagong	31.3	24.7	79	81
Rajshahi	37.2	27.2	77	67
Khulna	32.5	25.0	93	84
Barisal	33.0	25.1	95	86
Sylhet	32.5	24.3	83	72
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.0	88	87

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