

School admission hurdle too big for little children

FARHANA URMEE

Young learners had to go through a difficult patch for getting them admitted to the topmost government schools in the city for the new academic session as the number of admission seekers exceeded the seat capacity of 400 public and private schools.

A large number of children were seen appearing at the admission tests of those schools. They had to try their luck, because their fate hung in the balance.

Apart from Bangla and English medium private schools, 24 government schools here sold some 58,000 forms for admission tests against a total of 8,400 seats.

Consequently, the kids had to get worried that they did not deserve at this tender age.

For instance, nine-year-old Riffat Ahmed looked baffled during the admission test for class three at Mohammadpur Govt High School on December 26 morning. The reason was that Riffat had brought an admit card of a different school. So, he could not appear at the examination.

The parents had to face big

challenges in dealing with various situations. Some confused parents were making mistakes like sending a girl to a boys' school.

For example, Sadida Sirat Hiya, a first-timer kindergarten candidate, appeared at Mohammadpur High School as per her guardian's wish. But this school was for boys. The poor four-year-old girl was seen crying for not being able to sit for the exam.

A similar picture was also seen in other schools as well. During admission tests, children were seen standing instead of taking their exams, crying or sat idly staring into space through windows. Some of the kids appeared to be older than their required age as they have been in the race for more than one year now.

"The education runs in schools in a wrong system," said Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University, adding that children should be provided with the education that they can enjoy as unnecessary pressure merely brings the opposite reaction.

Experts say such overwhelming competition instills in the children a negative attitude to study which results in massive dropouts, poor academic performance and

reluctance to learning.

Children are pushed to such battle as standards of education vary from schools to schools and guardians want their wards to study in an excellent academia.

"Such competition is occurring as there is inequality of opportunity and lack of quality exists in the education system of the schools," said Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government.

"If all the schools could ascertain similar standards of education, the children would not have to face such harsh contest," she added.

Regarding the academic standards in schools, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said steps have already been taken to solve the problem.

"A total of 80 schools have introduced double shifts facilitating more students to get enrolled on good schools. Primary Terminal Examination is an initiative to ensure same standards in all the schools," he said.

To ensure minimum standards of education, parents force their kids to take coaching as well as tuition and prepare them to get admission to reputed schools from the



PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Young learners take admission test at Government Laboratory School in the city recently.

very beginning of the year.

"Children need to be taught up to class two to appear at admission to kindergarten to make them more competitive as these tests follow no syllabus," said Md Ibrahim Chowdhury, managing director of CIAM Educare,

an admission test coaching centre for schools.

Children aged between four and five need to know few signs, shapes, colours and alphabets but coaching centres and guidebooks are preparing the students eligible for admission tests and teaching

them maths and languages in hard methods ignoring their age and capability.

Khaleda Habib, principal of Udayan Uchcha Madhyamik Bidyalaya, said they do not want kids who know a lot; they just search for smart kids who are interested to be taught.

8 highway trauma centres to reopen Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will reopen the eight highway trauma centres this month, which has remained closed for a long time, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said yesterday.

As road accidents are taking place frequently on the highways and emergency services are critical to save the lives of injured people, the government is actively working to reopen the trauma centres, he said at the 2nd International Conference on Emergency Medicine in the city.

The minister also said that emergency services would be introduced in all big hospitals in the country within one and a half years.

The World Health Organisation has been supporting the government to strengthen the emergency services at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and two district sadar hospitals, he added.

Bangladesh Emergency Medicine in association with the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) UK and USA organised the three-day conference. The opening session of the last day programme was held at Dr

Shaheed Milton Hall at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

At the session, the health experts stressed the need to recognise Emergency Medicine as a specialty and take necessary steps in promoting undergraduate and postgraduate education in this regard.

They also said that the emergency services at different healthcare centres should be improved so that a huge number of lives can be saved.

If the patient gets the immediate healthcare in critical state, the chances of his or her survival increase, he said.

Emergency medicine is a field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups, they said.

State Minister for Health Mojibur Rahman Fakir, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services Prof Shah Monir Hossain, President of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Mahmud Hasan and Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Pran Gopal Dutta also spoke.

CTG VET UNIVERSITY Probe against VC begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A three-member probe committee started its investigation into the allegations of irregularities and nepotism against the vice chancellor (VC) of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) yesterday.

The committee, headed by University Grants Commission (UGC) member Prof Mohammad Abdul Hakim, took depositions of teachers, students, officials and employees at Research Centre of CVASU in the afternoon.

Prof Hakim told The Daily Star that they are investigating all the allegations brought against VC Nitish Chandra Devnath, including irregularities and nepotism in recruitment.

The committee also rushed to the residence of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and took his deposition in this connection, sources said.

Condolence book opens for Abdurrahman Wahid

METRO DESK

The Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka opened a condolence book for late Abdurrahman Wahid, former president of Indonesia, on the embassy premises at Road No. 53, Plot No. 14, Gulshan-2, yesterday, says a press release.

Abdurrahman Wahid passed away on December 30.

The condolence book will remain open from 10:00am to 12:30pm and 2:00pm to 3:30pm daily up to January 5.



PHOTO: PID
Committee on Inclusion of Educational Institutions in the MPO List, led by Dr Alauddin Ahmed, hands over a report to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her secretariat office in the city yesterday.

PM for free education at all levels

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said education at all levels in the country should be free as investment in education is the best investment.

She made the remark when the committee on the monthly payment order (MPO) handed over a report in this regard to the prime minister at her office at Bangladesh Secretariat in the afternoon.

The prime minister also directed the authorities concerned for ensuring balanced distribution of government's MPOs among the country's educational institutions.

She said the government is firmly committed to fulfilling its election pledges for making

education free up to the degree level.

She said the last Awami League government had been successful to take the country's literacy rate up to 65 percent from 45 percent, but after that the last BNP-Jamaat government only could bring it down with their limitless negligence.

"Now we're again putting in our best efforts for raising the country's literacy rate because we believe development cannot be expected without education," she said.

Committee Chairman and Adviser to the Prime Minister Alauddin Ahmed handed over the report to the PM while its members Rashed Khan Menon MP, Shah Alam MP and President of Bangladesh

College Teachers' Association Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed were present.

Later, Adviser Alauddin who led another committee for reviewing job merits of those government employees who were sacked and harassed from July 18, 2001 to October 2006 handed over its report to the prime minister at her secretariat office.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed journalists after the events.

Fire at dyeing factory in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire yesterday gutted a huge quantity of yarns and chemicals of a dyeing and knitting factory at Shyampur in the capital.

All the materials kept in two storehouses of 'K Ali Dyeing and Finishing Factory' were burnt to ashes but there was no casualty. A few materials of the three-storey office building were also burnt down.

Factory authorities claimed the loss at around Tk 17 crore while the Fire Service and Civil Defence officials put it to Tk 5 crore.

The fire service officials suspect an electric short circuit caused the fire but factory officials alleged it originated from a nearby steel mill.

Fire service sources said seven units of fire fighters from three stations fought for over six hours to douse the fire that broke out around 5:30am.

Security guard Shahjahan Mridha of the factory, who was on duty during the incident, said the fire broke out first at the Northwestern side. "But it engulfed both the storehouses and partially the factory within a short time," he added.

"The effort of the fire fighters to douse the fire went in vain because of the yarns and chemicals", said manager of the factory Humayun Kabir.

The Deputy Director of Fire Service and Civil Defence Dhaka Abdur Rashid denied the allegation of being late to arrive at the spot and said their effort saved the machinery and office.

STUDENT-BOOKSELLER CLASH

5 DU students injured, 23 shops vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five Dhaka University students were injured and 23 shops were ransacked at Baku Shah Hawkers' Market in the city's Nilkhet area yesterday in a string of clashes between students and booksellers.

The clash ensued when five DU students locked into a quarrel over buying a book from a roadside shop in front of Baku Shah Market around 5:00pm, police said.

The booksellers beat up

Shimul, Tapu, Palash, Sifat and Raju, residents of Sir AF Rahman Hall, and chased them to the hall gate.

Hearing this, students of the hall rushed to the spot and vandalised three shops -- Umni Traders, Junayed Enterprise and JR Enterprise - at Baku Shah Market and 20 shops on the footpath, witnesses said.

The shop owners and employees of Baku Shah and Nilkhet markets retaliated with bamboo sticks and hurled

brickbats on the students.

The feuding groups chased and counter chased each other for about an hour, disrupting vehicular movement in the area.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kamrul Islam of New Market Police Station said police with the help of DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan brought the situation under control at around 6:00pm.

Additional police have been deployed in the area, he added.



PHOTO: STAR
Students of Sir AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University set fire to a table on a road following a clash with booksellers in Nilkhet area yesterday.

REHAB FAIR 2010

5th - 9th January
Sheraton Hotel

OUR STALL CO-SPONSOR
47-48
(winter garden)

fabulous GIFT*

*condition apply

building technology & ideas ltd.

Contact : 8824457, 8812578, 9889392, 8815073
01713-247680, 01819-232240, 01819-232241
01713-247678, 01713-247679
Fax : 880-2-8812672, email : info@btibd.org

ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED

www.btibd.org

REHAB MEMBERSHIP# 001

in pursuit of excellence...

Happy New Year!

10% DISCOUNT FOR FIRST 10 DAYS OF YEAR 2010

cairnhill

CRÉDENCE

Cellox

CITIZEN

CHARLES JOURDAN

ESPRIT

Guy Laroche

Kalber GENEVE

LONGINES

MONTREX

pierre cardin

RADO SWITZERLAND

ROMANSON

TIMEX LIFE IS TICKING

TISSOT

TITAN The New World Watch

WESTAR Wrist Fashion

CROSS PEN

PARKER

SHEAFFER The Signature Sty

WATERMAN

TIME ZONE
authorised sales center

DHAKA • Rifles Square, Dhanmondi • Iqbal Centre, Banani • North Tower, Uttara • New Market • Concord Twin Tower, Malibagh • Mukta Bangla Shopping Complex, Mirpur-1 • Bashundhara City • Rapa Plaza, Dhanmondi • 199, Tejgaon I/A • Polwel Carnation, Uttara • Hotel Westin, Gulshan-2 • Suvastu Nazir Valley, Shahzadpur **NARAYANGONJ** • Club Market **CHITTAGONG** • Ammen Centre • New Market **SYLHET** • Al-Hamra Shopping **COMILLA** • Anam Plaza, Plaza **KHULNA** • Boro Bazar **JESSORE** • M.K Road **RAJSHAHI** • Eastern Plaza, Shaheb Bazar **RANGPUR** • Jahaj Co shopping complex **BARISAL** • Hemayet Uddin Road.

Imported & Marketed by:
Kallol Group of Companies
199, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka. Tel: 8816004 | www.kallolgroup.com