# METROPOLITAN

## Press Council to be modernised: Azad

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said the government would take proper steps to turn the press council into a modern and time befitting organisation.

The minister made the remark while a 10member delegation of Bangladesh Press Council led by its chairman Justice Qazi Ebadul a press release said.

over a draft proposal to the information minister for amending some clauses of the Press Council Act 1978.

Azad and the members of the delegation discussed various issues on modernising as well as brining dynamism in the press council.

The information minister assured the delegation that he would provide all out support to further development of the council.

The delegation also comprised members of the council former secretaries general of Bangladesh Federal Journalist Union (BFUJ) M Shahjahan Mia and Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, BFUJ Vice President Kartik Chatterjee, editor of the now defunct the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Huq met him at his secretariat office in the city, Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of the Daily Jahan M Habibur Rahman Sheikh, Editor of the News During the meeting, Justice Huq handed Today Reazuddin Ahmed, Editor of the Daily Sangbad Altamas Kabir, Director General of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan and lawmaker Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali.

Information Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Press Council Secretary Shafikuzzaman were also present on the occasion.



BNP lawmakers form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks against party Chairperson Khaleda Zia. (Story on Page 1)

SUICIDE ATTEMPT

### Tanzina's condition improving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested Ayesha Begum, mother-in-law of Maksuda, who attempted to commit suicide with her daughter before a running train in Banani. The condition of her one and half year old daughter Tanzina is

improving. She may need surgery, doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital said. Maksuda jumped before a running train with her one and a

half-year-old daughter on Monday near Sainik Club at capital's Banani as her husband divorced her to marry someone else.

Araihazar Police Station Chief Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star that police arrested Ayesha and handed her over to Kamalapur

Railway Police Station at noon.

The rest five accused, including Maksuda's husband Ashraf, are absconding.

Plaintiff of the case, Maksuda's brother Younus Ali, said relatives of Ashraf, over phone, threatened to lodge a murder case against him and his relatives if anything happens to Tanzina.



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## Govt plans to involve teachers in counselling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government is planning to involve selected teachers in their respective educational institution as counsellors to guide the students.

As it is not possible to appoint counselors at every institution in Bangladesh for lack of resources and trained counselors, the selected teachers would work as counsellors primarily, he said.

Ain O Shalish Kendra (ASK) organised the seminar titled 'Psychological Well-being of the Society: Need for Professional Mental Health Counsellor' at the Nabab Nawab Ali Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Along with the increased unrest and insecurity in the society, different problems have been on rise. So, counseling is needed much than earlier, said speakers.

Mental stress due to workload and social advancement, desertion of joint families and loneliness cause despair and finally lead to mental problems, they said.

The minister said the selected teachers would be trained up later to deal with the students properly who are sufferers from increased terrorism, stalking and poverty caused by social unrest.

As the students often cannot share their problems with their parents, they need counseling, said the minister adding that awareness should be created and local committees should be formed to resist stalkers.

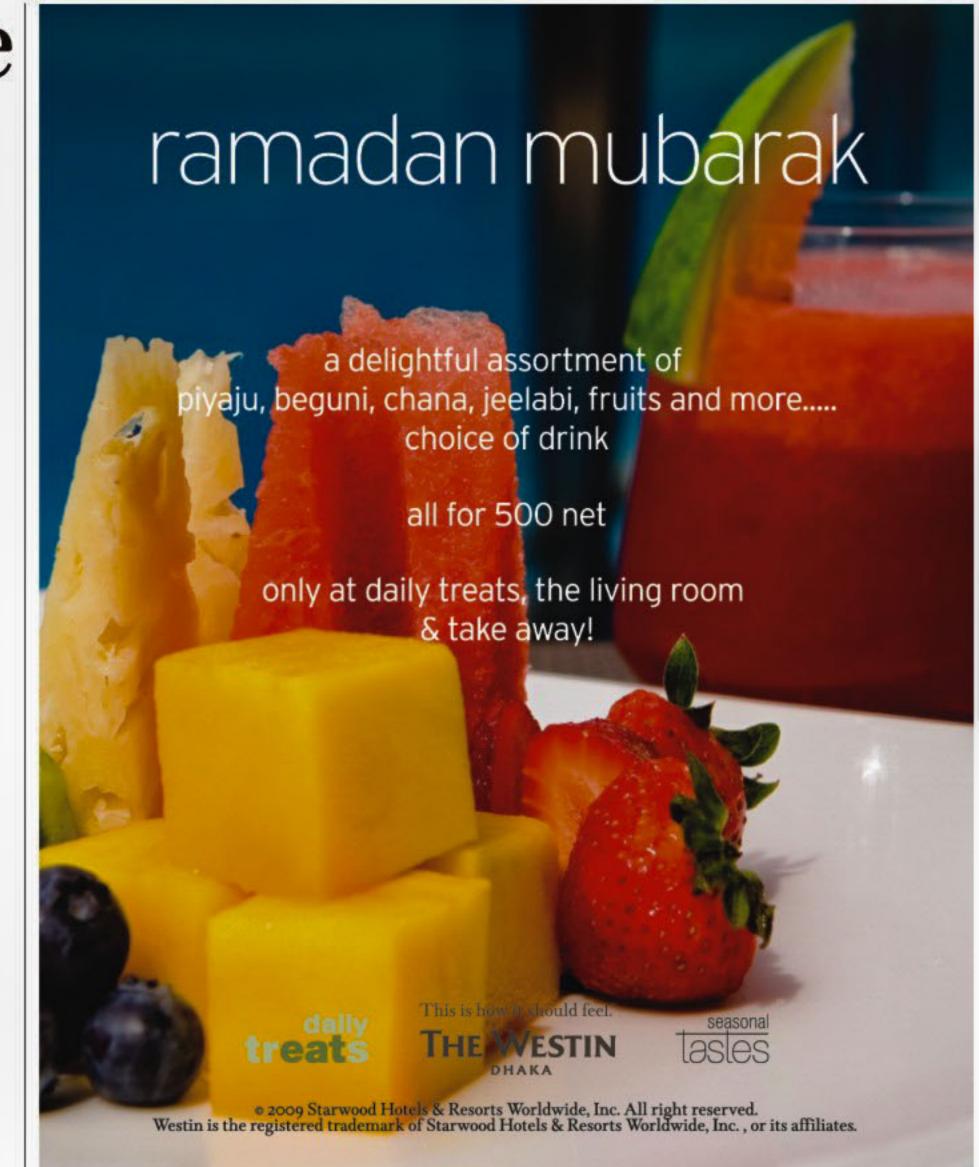
"If they could not be controlled through social interference, they should be handed over to the law enforcers," he said.

To create an improved environment for education, a chapter of moral education has been included in the education policy. Issues related to stalking would also be incorporated in the school textbooks, he added.

PK Saru, managing director of ASHA Counseling and Training Services, India, presented the keynote paper.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK, presided over the session while Deputy Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo Anisul Haque, Prof Mehtab Khanam of Dhaka University and Prof Shaheen Islam, advisor (PSH) of ASK, among others, spoke at the seminar.

Three weeks back Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also stressed the need for psychologists at every educational institution to provide proper education to children with special



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