

Moral education needed to stop stalking

Minister stresses new syllabus for new generation as he visits slain teacher's house in Rajshahi



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Alongside making the law more effective to stop stalking in the society, the government is considering a modern education system through inclusion of moral teaching in the syllabus, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid in Rajshahi yesterday.

"We want to make our sons and daughters into human beings through education. So we will introduce a new education system for the new generation to adapt them with the needs of the new era. We will include moral education like lessons against stalking in syllabuses," he said.

"The government is worried at incidents of suicide of some hapless students. We are considering appointment of psychologists at schools and colleges so that they can properly counsel students in distress following stalking and other problems," he said.

The minister was addressing a huge gathering at the courtyard of the house of murdered college teacher Mizanur Rashid at Chawk Laxmipur village in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi at around 11:00am.

"Many girls like Simi of Dhaka and Trisha of Gaibandha lost their lives as consequences of stalking by delinquents during the previous BNP-Jamaat government. But no action was taken. If actions were taken in time, the situation would not aggravate as it is today.

"We will not spare anyone involved in crimes like stalking. Measures must be taken to save our youths from turning into criminals," he said.

Stressing the need for a change in the mindset about girls and women, the minister said social movement should also be launched to stop stalking.

"People are the owner of the country, and it is our responsibility to provide them security. We need to educate our boys and girls. And so, they must go to school. No obstacle to their ways will be tolerated."

He called upon parents and guardians to be more cautious about their wards and teachers to care for students.

Locals at Mizan's house complained before the minister that some people are trying to portray the attack on Mizan as an accident and save his killers. The minister assured them that nobody, however powerful he may be, would be spared from the law during the rule of present government.

Two stalkers seriously injured Mizanur Rashid, a chemistry teacher of Lokmanpur College in Bagatpara upazila of Natore on October 12, following his protest against harassment of college girls. He died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on October 24.

Consoling Mizan's mother, the minister said people of the country will remember Mizan's sacrifice for the noble cause. Later, the minister visited Lokmanpur College in Natore and exchanged views with teachers of the college. He instructed local police to investigate the case properly.

Earlier at about 9:00am, he went to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital to see Abdul Hannan and his son, who were stabbed by a stalker in Naogaon on Saturday night.

The minister assured them of bringing the culprits to justice.



PHOTO: STAR

Slain college teacher Mizanur Rashid's mother breaks down in tears as Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visits her Chawk Laxmipur residence in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi yesterday. Bottom, the minister at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital consoles Shafiqur Rahman Zoha, who faced the wrath of stalkers for protesting their evil act at Khaspara in Naogaon district on Saturday night.



PHOTO: STAR

The boundary wall, along with other infrastructure of Kuakata Eco Park in Patuakhali district, lies in a mangled form since the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007.

Sidr-ravaged eco park still awaits repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Kuakata Eco Park that was badly damaged by super cyclone Sidr three years ago still shows all signs of destruction, making the once attractive scenic spot repulsive to tourists from home and abroad.

Shortly after the natural disaster, the local forest department sent a Tk 20 lakh project proposal (PP) for its repair but it is yet to get approval from the higher authorities concerned.

Patuakhali Coastal Forest Department set up the eco

park on 13,984 hectares of land including Gongamoti, Khajura, Latachapplee and Fatrar Char in Kuakata sea beach area at a cost of Tk 2.76 crore in 2005-2006 financial year.

Two watch towers, five sheds for picnic, bridge, culverts, internal pathways, office building and ticket counter were built there and a lake was developed in the eco park area to the east of Kuakata Zero Point.

As many as 42,000 plants of different varieties of trees were planted in the park area to make it more pleasant to the tourists while mangrove

and non-mangrove gardens were made there to create safe nesting place for birds.

A tamarisk garden was also made outside the park to protect it from tidal surge of the Bay.

The eco-park added to the attraction of the Kuakata to the tourists.

But most infrastructures including the office building, pathways, boundary walls, electrification system and the lake were damaged by super cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007. Most of the planted trees were uprooted, making the park look bare and unattractive.

Consequently, tourists lost interest to visit the park.

"We urged the higher authorities to take steps to repair the park as soon as possible as it is one of the best spots in Kuakata but to no effect," said local UP chairman Abdul Bareq Mollah.

When contacted, Gobinda Roy, divisional forest officer in Patuakhali, said, "We sent a Tk 20 lakh project proposal to rebuild the park but it is yet to be approved by the higher authorities concerned. We hope that the proposal will be approved very soon and we will be able to start work in the upcoming dry season."

POLICE ASSAULT CASE IN KHULNA

82 Jamaat, Shibir men charge-sheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Charges have been pressed against 82 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir in a case for assaulting police in Khulna city on June 30 this year.

Sub-Inspector Monirul Islam of Khulna Sadar Police Station, also the Investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Sunday evening.

The charge-sheeted accused include city Jamaat Ameer and former lawmaker Mian Golam Parwar, city Nayeb-e-Amir Prof Abdul Matin, General Secretary Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Assistant General Secretary Khandaker Abdul Khaleque, President of Shibir district unit

Saidur Rahman, President of Shibir city unit Aatur Rahman Bachchu, and president of Shibir Govt BL University College unit Azizul Islam Farazi.

In the charge sheet, 39 of the 82 accused have been shown arrested while the rest are still at large.

The investigation officer stated in the charge sheet that the accused, equipped with firearms and sharp weapons, launched an attack on the on-duty policemen during demonstration in the city on June 30 protesting arrest of Jamaat leaders Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Maulamud Mojahid and Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

During the attack, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulna Sadar Police Station Munirul

Gias, SI Abdur Rahim, ASI Shahidul Islam and constable Shariful Islam sustained severe injuries, he mentioned in the charge sheet.

He further stated that some demonstrators snatched the wireless set from OC Munirul Gias.

Sub-inspector Rezaul Islam lodged two separate cases- one under the Speedy Trial Act and the other for assaulting police- with Khulna Sadar Police station the same day naming 21 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir and over 100 unidentified others as accused.

On July 12 this year, SI Monirul Islam of Khulna Sadar Police Station submitted a charge sheet to the CMM's Court against 47 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir in the case filed under the Speedy Trial Act.

5 arrested in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

Five Shibir leaders and activists were arrested early yesterday while pasting posters on the walls in the municipal area.

The arrestees were identified as Shamsul Alam Nippon, secretary of Ramganj thana unit, Pourashava unit president Shamsul Islam, 5 No. ward president Zahir and activists Raihan and Hasan.

Police said they arrested them while pasting posters on the walls demanding unconditional release of five top Jamaat leaders including party Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami.

Hearing the news of arrest a few local Jamaat leaders and activists gathered in front of Ayesha restaurant in the area. At this some Awami League activists attacked on them leaving five Jamaat leaders and workers injured.

The injured, identified as thana Ameer Master Abul Hossain, Poura Ameer Dewan Yousuf, thana Jamaat leader Aminul Islam Mukul and activists Khorsed Alam Khokon and Anowar Hossain, were admitted to local hospitals and clinics.

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forms without going through the hassle of actually collecting it by hand. People come here to get agricultural advice, apply for jobs and so on. Some couples have even used the webcam to get married! Everything is easily accessible as the world is at their fingertips.

GPCICs connect people to the world and along the way CIC entrepreneurs like Asaduzzaman help themselves and empower people around them.

Mamun Rashid of Sarkarpara, Thakurgaon is another CIC entrepreneur who passed his Bachelor's (Hons) examination in Economics from the Dinajpur Government College in 2001. In 2005 he set up a phone shop in Thakurgaon and named it after his younger brother who had passed away "Papun Cell". In the beginning his retired father would look after the shop, and then in 2006 Mamun took over the entire business. When Grameenphone decided to set Community Information Centres (CIC) in all the upazilas of the country in 2006, Mamun immediately put in an application. In December that year, he set up his own, with just a single computer. Today his CIC has five computers, two scanners and two printers. He has also employed two young men at his center. Mamun started off with a monthly income of five thousand taka, and now he earns almost 20 thousand taka a month, a dream that he never imagined would materialize. The CIC has also given Mamun the financial stability to support his family. His hard work and dedication have turned him into a beacon of hope and have helped him earn peoples' respect. And Mamun is proud to be part of this initiative in Thakurgaon.

Grameenphone has set up 527 Community Information Centers (CICs) all over the country to ensure people's access to information. CICs are designed to work independently as small businesses by local entrepreneurs and are equipped with computer, printer, scanner, webcam and the internet to facilitate various services. The owners are trained and provided with around the clock support from Grameenphone so that they can extend their knowledge and service to the communities they serve. People who never even heard of the internet now have the world at their fingertips.

Asaduzzaman, a young man's life was almost wrecked when his father abruptly passed away few years before. Seemingly overnight, the weight of family responsibility fell upon his shoulders. "My father was the only earning member of the family, and I never even bothered to help out. I was completely at a loss as to what I should do", says a teary-eyed Asaduzzaman. Under the guidance from his mother he opened up a Community Information Center and never had to look back ever since. In a small yet significant way, his personal success with the CIC turned into a communal development tool. The CIC has given him the financial stability to support his family. His hard work and dedication have turned him into a beacon of hope and have helped him earn peoples' respect. "Things are going well for me, very well indeed", says a beaming Asaduzzaman. His CIC has become the community's digital solution center. Here with a webcam, a father working abroad can see his newborn child for the first time. With the internet, nervous students can check their exam results without having to queue up for hours, while an elderly citizen can access government

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