

PRY EDUCATION UP TO CLASS VIII

Submit proposal by Oct 15

Ministry asks sub-committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub-committee on the national education policy implementation has been directed to submit its proposal by October 15, stating strategies for upgrading primary level education up to class VIII from existing class V.

The directive came at a meeting of the national education policy implementation and monitoring committee of the education ministry at the secretariat yesterday, as the sub-committee failed to submit the proposal within nine months of its formation in late January.

At the meeting chaired by Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, another sub-committee (on education act) was asked to come up with its proposal by October 20.

On June 28 last year, the government formed the national education policy committee, which in its first meeting on January 27 this year formed 24 sub-committees to formulate strategies for the implementation within two months. But, none of the committees, including the one on making primary education compulsory up to class VIII, could submit their reports till yesterday.

At yesterday's meeting, the committee also asked the subordinate committees to submit reports without further delay, said a meeting source. The meeting considered infrastructure, money, and human resources as the main obstacles to the implementation of the education policy, he added.

"It is indeed a complex matter to upgrade primary level up to class VIII as it involves huge money and infrastructure. We gave the sub-committee concerned 15 days' time to come up with specific proposal to upgrade primary level", Nahid said while briefing journalists after the meeting.

The minister said the education act is at final stage and once it is done the anomaly of the laws regarding education will go away.

About media reports on slow pace of the implementation, Nahid said implementation of the education policy did not get stuck. "Education policy is not a mechanical matter that we set it up. It's a guideline by which we will take creative initiatives", he said.

The minister claimed that many features of the policy have been made effective, making a progress in the education sector. He said they will again sit to discuss the progress soon.



The Dhaka-Chittagong highway exposes rough stone chips inflicting serious inconvenience on travellers as its bitumen coating has eroded away. The photo was taken from Rayerbagh in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

JCD man killed in factional feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist was stabbed to death and three others were injured allegedly by activists of their rival faction over formation of JCD committees yesterday morning.

The dead is Kapot Hossain Nayeem, 18, a member of JCD Chaugachha Degree College unit.

The injured Sohel, Faruque and Jewel also students of the same college, are undergoing treatment at Jessore General Hospital.

Locals said a council meeting which was to be held yesterday afternoon at Chaugachha bazaar was supposed to announce the committees of thanas, municipalities and college JCD units.

Police said a gang of at least eight people armed with sticks and sharp knives attacked Kapot and other members of the rival faction at the programme venue, around midday.

The gang stabbed them indiscriminately, leaving four people injured. Kapot was declared dead at the hospital.

Mostaq Ahmad, secretary of Chaugachha Thana Chhatra Dal suspects that a feud over formation of the college committee may have triggered the incident.

No case has been filed yet, said Abdul Bari, officer-in-charge of Chaugachha Police Station.

Peace model to stop illegal power takeover: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the peace model she unveiled at the 66th UNGA session is designed to make sure that the state power remains in the hands of the people.

"I have presented the peace model with the thinking that state power does not go to a handful of people or army barrack," she said while speaking at a reception at VVIP lounge of Shahjalal International Airport yesterday evening.

The prime minister presented the 6-point multi-dimensional peace model on September 24 for championing democracy and people's empowerment, coinciding with the UNGA theme 'Mediation in the peaceful settlement of international disputes'. The six multipliers of her proposed peace model include eradication of poverty and hunger, reduction of inequality,

mitigation of deprivation, inclusion of excluded people, and acceleration of human development and elimination of terrorism.

means.

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"We have amended the constitution to ensure the people's power."

She said, "We believe in empowerment of the people. Through this empower-

ment, economic freedom and poverty alleviation could be achieved."

About the trial of war criminals, she said the trial is being held in accordance with international norms to put an end to injustice.

Hasina said her party received electoral mandate through the 2008 general election to serve the people. "We're trying to serve the people and achieve self-sufficiency in food."

Representatives of different professional groups including artists, athletes, litterateurs, teachers, doctors, businessmen, cabinet ministers and AL leaders greeted her for receiving the South-South Global Health & Children's Health Award in New York. Earlier, an Emirates flight, carrying the prime minister, landed at the Shahjalal International Airport at 8.07pm following a five-hour stopover in Dubai. Cabinet members, PM's advisers,

lawmakers, high civil and military officials received her at the airport.

The prime minister had left Dhaka on September 17.

During her 11-day stay in New York, she attended a reception hosted by First Lady Michele Obama on September 22, and held bilateral talks with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on September 23.

The PM addressed a symposium on counterterrorism on September 19 organised by the UN secretary general. She also addressed a high-level meeting on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases at the General Assembly Hall.

On September 20, she received the Global Health and Children's Award for her outstanding contribution to develop Bangladesh's health sector by using the Information Communication Technology (ICT).



Right to Information Forum organises a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday on the occasion of the International Right to Know Day observed worldwide on September 28.

PHOTO: STAR

Broadcasting policy shouldn't contradict RTI act: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should not formulate broadcast policy that goes against Right to Information (RTI) Act and constitutional recognition of people's right to freedom of expression, an official of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said yesterday.

"Transparency and accountability of public and private institutions would be ensured if right to information is established. It would also curb corruption and establish good governance", said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of the TIB.

"The government should deal formulation of broadcasting policy issue with special care so that it does not conflict the right to information law

and the constitution", he added.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman made the observation at a human chain in front of the city's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, organised by Right to Information Forum on the occasion of the International Right to Know Day observed worldwide on September 28, says a press release.

Members of the forum including TIB, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Coast Trust, Management and Resources Development Initiative, D.Net, and Brac joined the human chain.

Meanwhile, TIB observed the day in 45 areas across the country by organising information fare, seminar, rally, cartoon exhibition, street play, and different cultural events.

Govt urged to ensure rights of indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Forum for Universal Periodic Review (UPR-HR Forum) yesterday called upon the government to take effective measures to ensure the rights of the country's indigenous people.

The forum officials made the call at its monthly meeting yesterday, said a press release.

The latest constitutional amendment, which termed all the people including indigenous as Bangalee, goes against the spirit of pluralism of ethnicity and multiculturalism, said the forum Convener Sultana Kamal.

It undermines the fundamental rights of those who are not Bangalee by ethnicity and cultural identity, she added.

She also urged to repeal this amendment and demonstrate equal respect to the citizens.

The government has violated its election pledges of giving constitutional recognition to the indigenous people, said the forum officials.

Their other demands included full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord, immediate resolution of land dispute of indigenous communities and withdrawal of all army camp from the CHT.

The UPR-HR Forum is an alliance of 17 non-government organisations working for promoting human rights.

12 stolen vehicles seized: 9 alleged thieves held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective branch (DB) of police recovered 12 stolen vehicles and arrested nine alleged thieves from in and outside the capital on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A team of DB police on Tuesday arrested Jewel, 26, from Matuail of Demra. He was accused in a carjacking case filed with Motijheel Police Station, said Mokhesur Rahman, a senior assistant commissioner (AC) of DB.

According to Jewel's information, police arrested his accomplice Mintu, 28, from Sonargaon of Narayanganj district. They recovered a stolen private car and two motorbikes from his rented garage, the AC added.

Another team of DB police arrested five members of an alleged carjacker gang -- Bashir 32, Shahidul Islam, 25, Rafiqul Islam, 26, Riaz Mahmud, 30, and Alim, 28,

from Motijheel on Tuesday. On the basis of information extracted from Bashir and Shohidul, DB police conducted drives at Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj and recovered a private car.

They also recovered a stolen motorbike from the capital's Segunbagicha, a microbus from Sabujbagh, a private car from Khilgaon and another from the parking area of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Mokhesur Rahman said.

Meanwhile, DB police nabbed two members of an alleged motorbike stealer gang -- Mohammad Jimmon, 23, Mohammad Bashir, 20, from capital and recovered four motorbikes from their possession on Wednesday, according to DB officials.

Earlier on 16 and 17 September, police recovered 14 stolen cars and five motorbikes and arrested nine suspected carjackers from Dhaka and Chittagong.

Give priority to trial of war criminals: Deputy Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali yesterday said the government should give top priority to the trial of criminals who committed crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The first and most important task of the government is to hold the trial to uphold the spirit of the liberation war, said Shawkat Ali at a discussion in the city.

Sampradayikata-Jangibad Birodhi Morcha (a platform against communalism and militancy) organised the discussion at Liberation War Museum auditorium marking a signature campaign to press the demand of holding the trial soon.

All the criminals have to be brought to book, whatever time it will take, he

added.

"We have to strengthen our demand of trying the war criminals and the government have to involve more and more people to press home the demand," said the deputy speaker.

Former Justice Golam Rabbani said that any war criminal should not be given chance to run their politics in Bangladesh.

"Trial of the war criminals is not enough, religious based politics and education should also be banned," added Rabbani.

General secretary of Sectors Commanders' Forum, Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-or-Rashid Bir Protik alleged that there is a confusion in the government over the trial of war criminals.

"We have to force the government to hold the trial immediately," he

added.

Ajoy Roy, coordinator of the platform, said Khaleda's recent speech supporting the war criminals is a "bad omen" for the country.

He demanded to arrest rest of the war criminals, including Ghulam Azam immediately.

Pankaj Bhatyacharya, presidium member of Gonoforum, said the trial have to be completed soon to fulfill the cherished goal of the independence and save the sovereignty of the country.

Shaheed Jaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, general secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Sharif Nurul Ambia, Politburo member of Workers Party of Bangladesh Bimal Biswas, among others, spoke.