

# Call to ban coaching business

WASIM BIN HABIB

The system of coaching should be banned to help children develop the creative knack and to put an end to commercialisation of education, said academics.

The call comes as the education ministry is due to hold a crucial meeting on the "coaching business" of schoolteachers today.

The country's education system seems to have become inextricably intertwined with the practice of private coaching and tutorials, they said.

A section of teachers of prominent schools and colleges in Dhaka are making easy money out of this practice by shirking their classroom duties and creating situations where the students are forced to take tuitions beyond school hours, they added.

"Coaching becomes necessary because the teachers do not give proper attention and best output in the classroom, prompting the guardians to send their children to coaching centres in order to get good results," said noted educationist Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury.

"Coaching should be banned," he told The Daily Star.

Since the teachers earn huge money from coaching, they give extra care to the students here unlike in a classroom setting.

Private coaching makes the children much dependent on teachers, hampering their (children) creative faculty from flourishing, and creates a line of discrimination among the students as those coming from poor families cannot afford

it, educationists added.

A walk through the city found many walls covered with posters that claim of coaching service with guaranteed GPA-5 or A+ results for the students.

But, such guarantee is rarely shown by a teacher in classroom teaching.

Though the education ministry recognised this practice as a problem, it only responded formally by issuing a circular last August that stated that teachers can take an hour-long extra class for the weak students in exchange of Tk 175 per class.

However, this instruction was also not fol-

lowed, said the teachers.

Later on September 14 last year, President Ziaul Kabir Dulu of Obhobhabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians, filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) on the grave matter.

The HC, on October 17, issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to stop the teachers working at coaching centres and why it should not be directed to enact a law in this regard.

Against this backdrop, the education ministry convenes a meeting to find out a way to stop coaching, said the ministry sources.

Representatives of the Cabinet Division, Prime

Minister's Office, Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Secretariat, law ministry, home ministry, different directorates of education ministry and heads of 14 prominent schools in the capital will be attending the meeting today.

"We will take a decision about coaching after consulting with all stakeholders," said Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury.

Prof Serajul said teachers try to substitute their poor remuneration at the schools by giving private tuitions.

The educationist suggested increasing teachers' salary and strengthening school monitoring mechanism to check whether teachers are delivering class lectures properly.

The petitioner Dulu said, "Additional classes can be taken for the weak students, but what we want is to stop the coaching business of teachers that are mushrooming the country."

Manju Ara Begum, acting principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, said, "Coaching should be stopped and, if the government formulates an act in this regard, we will follow that," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Awareness of the guardians is a must. Without solely depending on teachers, they will also have to monitor what their kids are learning from the classes," she said.

Mohammad Azizul Islam, president of Bangladesh Teachers Association, said the government must strive for improving classroom teaching and brining down the teacher student ratio.

## Education ministry to hold meeting today

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A determined young girl stands beside adults at a human chain programme organised by Paribesh Bachao Andolon in the city's Shahbag yesterday protesting filling up of water bodies adjacent to the Titas river to construct roads for facilitating movement of transit goods.

PHOTO: STAR

## AUGUST 15 ASSASSINATION

# Gallantry award for trying to save Bangabandhu

KAILASH SARKAR

Assistant sub-inspector of police Siddiqur Rahman, who sacrificed his life for trying to save Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975, has been awarded the Bangladesh Police Medal for his outstanding act of bravery 36 years ago.

The recognition came at the annual Police Week 2012, 36 years after the massacre at Dhanmondi house No. 32.

Siddiqur's son Mostafizur Rahman received the medal from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the inaugural ceremony of the programme at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

Siddiqur Rahman, who was an ASI of Special Branch of police at that time, was discharging his duties as security in-charge at the entrance to Bangabandhu's house on the fateful night when some disgruntled army personnel killed Bangabandhu and 16 of his family members.

Apart from ASI Siddiqur Rahman, Colonel Jamil Uddin Ahmed and sepoy Shamsul Huq also sacrificed their lives trying to resist the assassins and save the Father of the Nation

and his family members.

Siddiqur remained deployed at the main gate of Bangabandhu's house.

Resisted, the killers sprayed bullets on Siddiqur to clear their way before raising hell inside the house.

Bangabandhu's wife and three sons, including eight-year-old Russell, were among the victims. His daughters Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana escaped the attack as they were abroad at the time.

According to police sources, Siddiqur joined the police department as a constable in 1971. His wife died in 1990 due to old age complications, leaving behind her two sons.

Apart from ASI Siddiqur Rahman, 58 other personnel from police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were also awarded the Bangladesh Police Medal (BPM) and President Police Medal (PPM).

Of the 59 personnel, 11 were awarded the BPM and 48 the PPM. Among them, 20 personnel were awarded for their acts of bravery while the remaining 49 being honoured for their outstanding performance in combatting crime.

## HC verdict on contempt rule against JU teacher today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will deliver its verdict today on a contempt of court rule issued against Jahangirnagar University (JU) teacher Muhammad Ruhul Amin Khandaker for not complying with its order.

The court on December 12 last year asked Ruhul Amin, a lecturer of the Department of Information and Technology, to appear before it on January 2 to explain why he should not be punished for committing contempt of court by not responding to its earlier order.

The court issued the rule on August 18 last year asking Ruhul Amin, now in Australia, to explain in two weeks why he should not be prosecuted for allegedly posting a derogatory comment on the facebook against the prime minister.

The court passed the order on a suo moto move after a Bangla daily on August 18 published a report stating that Ruhul Amin posted on his facebook on August 13 asking a question why Sheikh Hasina does not die, as all die in road accidents.

Ruhul Amin made the comment on the context of Tareque Masud and Ashfaq Munier Mishuk's deaths in a tragic road accident, according to the report.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain yesterday informed the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain that the government had communicated to Ruhul Amin in Australia its orders, but he (Ruhul) had neither appeared before the court nor made any response to its order.

## DEATH OF 76 BY TOXIC SYRUP

# Another witness gives deposition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One more prosecution witness gave deposition before a Dhaka court yesterday after 20 years of filing a case filed for manufacturing adulterated paracetamol syrup that caused the death of 76 children in 1991.

Mahbubul Amin, former store in-charge of Dhaka Shishu Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, told the court that Abul Khair Chowdhury, the then drug superintendent, on July 3, 1992 col-

lected from him samples of Flammodol paracetamol syrup for testing.

The paracetamol syrup was manufactured by M/S Adflame Pharmaceuticals Company Ltd.

He supplied the samples of paracetamol syrup following an order of the hospital director, Amin said.

Later Amin was cross-examined by defence lawyer.

Judge Abdul Majid of the Drug Court then fixed February 2 for the next hearing.

Earlier on October 20, 2010, Abul Khair Chowdhury, also the complainant of the case, appeared before the court and spoke in favour of the five accused in the case. Three of them are still on the run.

During the yesterday's hearing, Adflame Director Dr Helena Pasha and Manager Mizanur Rahman, both accused of the same charges and now out on bail, were present.

On December 23, 1992, the Directorate of Drug Administration filed the case.



Young girls join their mothers during a human chain called by Viqarunnisa Noon School and College Guardian Forum demanding cancellation of lottery system to select students for admission. The photo was taken in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 66 BNP men get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-six BNP leaders and workers, including former lawmaker Ilias Ali, were granted two months' anticipatory bail yesterday in six separate cases in connection with the violence in Sylhet and Sirajganj on December 18.

All the accused, including Ilias Ali, appeared before a High Court bench seeking bail in the cases.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Shahidul Karim granted the bail after hearing 10 separate bail petitions moved by the accused on January 1.

The police filed five cases with different police stations in Sylhet and another with a Sirajganj Police Station against them on December 18 last year following the incident of violence in the respective areas.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon and some other pro-BNP lawyers appeared for the accused, while Deputy Attorney General Khandaker Diliruzzaman represented the government.

## Woman takes her life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide in the city's Maniknagar Sabujbagh yesterday afternoon after her husband married for the second time.

Shimu Akhter, 27, wife of Ataur Rahman, owner of a rickshaw garage in the area, took poison at around 3.30pm. Her brother Mohammad Ibrahim and neighbours took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead.

Ibrahim told reporters at DMCH that Shimu had a quarrel with Ataur after she recently came to know that her husband had married another woman about one year ago.

They often were locked in squabbles after Shimu came to know of her husband's second marriage.

Ataur left the house yesterday afternoon after the quarrel and Shimu took poison.

Ibrahim said Shimu hailed from Kaliakoir in Gazipur and he had come to Dhaka to solve the problem.



অধিকতর গ্রাহকসেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে উন্নততর সকল ধরনের ব্যাংকিং সুবিধাসহ উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড "জয়দেবপুর শাখা" পুরাতন অবস্থান হতে নতুন অবস্থানে স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে আপামীকাল ৫ জানুয়ারী (বৃহস্পতিবার) ২০১২ ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করবে।

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