

Registered primary schools to be nationalised: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government had agreed in principle to nationalise all registered primary schools of the country in three phases.

She said she had directed the authorities concerned to frame a policy for the nationalisation of registered non-government primary schools for further development of the country's primary education.

There are some 22,961 non-government registered primary schools across the country with 90,000 teachers and 41 lakh students.

The announcement came at a meeting with a delegation of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers Unity Council at her office.

The PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said the government would not allow setting up of any primary school without its permission.

Mentioning that primary education is the base of all education, the premier stressed the need for further strengthening this basic education.

She mentioned that the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had nationalised primary schools immediately after the country's independence.

The government attaches top priority to education with the highest budgetary allocation as the desired development is not possible without it, she added.

She highlighted various steps taken by the government, including a time-befitting education policy, for the development of education in the country.

In the new education policy, primary education was extended to up to class eight to keep pace with the modern world, she said.

Hasina said the introduction of exams like primary terminal, Junior School Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate has removed the fear surrounding board exams from the minds of the students and increased the pass rate tremendously.

Referring to the excellent results of this year's Secondary School Certificate exam, Hasina hoped that the pass percentage would gradually increase to cent percent in the future.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Ameen and State Minister M Motahar Hossain, Awami League Presidium Member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, PM's Private Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and the council Adviser Munsur Ali, Chairman Aminul Islam, Co-chairman Abdus Salam Mia, Member Secretary Abdur Rahman Bacchu and Joint Member Secretary Mahub Alam also spoke on the occasion.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the authorities concerned to frame a policy for the nationalisation of registered non-government primary schools



Photojournalists stage a demonstration before Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting Saturday's police assault on three of their colleagues from Prothom Alo.

PHOTO: STAR

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER JSD questions govt role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday said that the failure to identify the killers of Sagar and Runi and the disappearance of Ilias Ali has raised questions about the role and administration of the present government.

Moreover, incidents of disappearances, crossfire and encounters have made efforts by the government to establish rule of law in the country controversial, party leaders said at a meeting of JSD's national committee.

JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia and Executive President Moinuddin Khan Badal were present at the meeting held at the party's central office in the capital, said a press release.

At the meeting, party leaders called on main opposition BNP to propose possible alternatives to interim government system, as there are no prospects of reinstating the traditional caretaker government system.

The BNP's lack of sincerity in discussing the issue has made an acceptable national election uncertain, the leaders observed.

They also called on the government to formulate electricity use policies and buying rice straight from farmers due to low market prices, the release said.

Journos protest police action on 3 lens men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists of different media houses staged a two-hour sit-in before the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday protesting Saturday's police assault on three photojournalists.

Meanwhile, different organisations condemned the incident and demanded legal action against the policemen involved.

Policemen, led by Shahidul Islam, assistant commissioner of Tejgaon division, swooped on the photojournalists while they were taking shots of a demonstration staged by the students of Dhaka Women Polytechnic Institute around 1:00pm.

Photojournalists throughout the country will stage demonstrations in their respective districts and before Jatiya Press Club in the capital today if the policemen concerned are not arrested.

It was decided at a meeting among leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Dhaka Reporters Unity and Photojournalists Association yesterday.

Earlier, they staged the sit-in from around 11:00am.

The leaders demanded compensation for the assaulted photojournalists of Bangla daily Prothom Alo -- Khaled Sarkar, Sajid Hossain and Zahidul Karim.

They also demanded recording of a case against the policemen concerned.

Meanwhile, different organisations said temporary suspension and closing are not adequate punitive measures.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, in a statement, said, "We demand exemplary punishment of the perpetrators. Simple closing and temporary suspension are far from enough."

Ain O Salish Kendra, a rights body, in a

Photojournalists will stage countrywide demonstrations today

press release, termed the assault "a bar to the freedom of opinion".

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Ganosanghati Andolan, Progressive Art and Mass Workers' Forum, Bangladesh Jatiya Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami also condemned the assault.

Some BNP leaders led by its standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan, on behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, visited the three injured journalist at Trauma Centre in the capital last night.



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5 fruit shops fined for adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined five fruit shops at Shantinagar in the capital Tk 50,000 for selling adulterated fruits and destroyed 150 kg adulterated mangoes.

While conducting a drive, the court led by Executive Magistrate Abu Sayed detected the presence of calcium carbide and formalin in the mangoes of these shops.

The court fined Tk 10,000 to each of the shops - Messers Shahid Fal Bhandar, Shahzahan Foods, Abdur Rashid Food Store, Karim Kutir and Siraj Food and destroyed 150 kg mangoes of the shops, said BSTI a press release.

Dhaka district administration and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) jointly conducted the drive.

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প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংকের সিলেট ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং শাখা স্থানান্তর

২৭ মে ২০১২ থেকে সিলেট ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং শাখা নতুন ঠিকানায়-

পুরাতন ঠিকানা
৭১৭৭ লালদীঘিরপাড়
সিলেট

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