

QUALITY EDUCATION AT GOVT COLLEGES Principals blame teacher shortage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shortage of teachers and classrooms and a lack of infrastructure are the major obstacles to ensure quality education at government colleges, said its principals at a conference in the capital yesterday.

A lack of training opportunities for teachers and a dearth of adequate reference books and apparatus at science laboratories are also affecting education at the state-run colleges, they said demanding that the government appoint more teachers.

The principals made the remarks at "Government College Principals' Conference 2017" organised by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) at Azimpur Government Girls' School and College.

Principals of 327 public colleges participated in the conference where some of them shared their problems in the presence of the education minister and high officials of the ministry and DSHE. The directorate organised similar conference last year.

"I don't have teachers for five subjects. Sixteen posts of lecturer have long been lying vacant. The classes are being taken by any available teachers," said Nazrul Islam, principal of Chapainawabganj Government Girls' College.

Principal of Jamalpur Government Ashek Mahmud College said, "We have only

70 teachers against 2,400 students in our college. We need 100 teachers and have also informed the authorities, but to no avail."

Principal of Khulna Girls' College said they have been struggling to hold classes of around 2,000 students due to a shortage of classrooms.

Sandwip Government College Principal said their students are facing extreme difficulties as there is no academic building.

Government Tolaram College Principal said female students feel less interested to get admitted to the institution as they do not have any hostel.

Responding to the teachers, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said there are many problems in the state-run colleges. But the government is working on it, he said.

"Appointing teachers and building infrastructure are ongoing process," he said.

He, however, blamed teachers' unwillingness to work outside Dhaka, which is one of the reasons behind teacher crisis in rural colleges.

"Everybody prefers Dhaka. If the teachers stay in Dhaka, what will happen to other colleges," Nahid said.

Mollah Jalaluddin, ndc, additional secretary of secondary and higher education division of the ministry, and Prof SM Wahiduzzaman, director general of DSHE, also spoke.

Boy dies from suffocation in Dhaka fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy died from suffocation and his father fell ill after inhaling smoke in a fire on Kuril Biswa Road in capital yesterday afternoon.

Nayan, 16, and his father Shajahan Mia fell ill after inhaling the smoke during the fire that originated at their tin-roofed house around 3:00pm, said Bacchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police outpost.

They were rushed to DMCH where doctors declared Nayan dead, the police official said, adding, Shajahan was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Locals doused the fire, said Palash Chandra Modok, duty officer of the Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters.

Police suspected that the fire originated from a mosquito coil.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayers after inaugurating nine development projects and laying the foundation stone of seven others at Adamdighi Stadium in Santahar of Bogra yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

WB hands over another vehicle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has handed over another vehicle to Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID), 11 days after the directorate sought information about 16 vehicles brought into the country duty-free.

The WB's Dhaka office turned over the sedan -- Toyota Allion 2006 -- to officials at CIID Kakrail office around 5:00pm on Wednesday, Moynul Khan, director general of CIID, told The Daily Star yesterday.

With this, the WB has handed over three duty-free vehicles, of which two were returned on February 20.

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Delay triggers quorum crisis in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday witnessed an unusual quorum crisis thanks to the delayed arrival of treasury and opposition bench MPs.

The sitting was scheduled to begin at 4:45pm, but it started at 5:09pm following a 24 minute delay.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury was in the chair.

The House also witnessed another quorum crisis after Magrib prayer. While the proceedings were supposed to resume at 6:05pm after the prayer break, there was a 26 minute delay.

Sources at the parliament secretariat said there were instances that sittings started five to 15 minutes past the schedule due to quorum crises but it was unusual that delays triggered a quorum crisis.

According to the rules of procedure, presence of at least 60 lawmakers is mandatory for continuing proceedings of the parliament. According to the Parliament Watch report of Transparency International Bangladesh, which came out in October 2015, quorum crises happen due to delays in taking seats by the members. Quoting an estimate, the report said the cost involved in running the parliament session per minute was around Tk 1.11 lakh.

At the beginning of yesterday's proceedings, only Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim were seen at the front row of the treasury bench.

None from the opposition bench was there at that time. Yesterday's sitting resumed with only 65 lawmakers.



Khadiza wants death penalty for attacker

Testifies in Sylhet court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

About four months after a cleaver attack sent her into a coma, undergraduate student Khadiza Begum Nargis testified in a Sylhet court and demanded the capital punishment for the attacker.

The 23-year-old was the last of 34 witnesses to give deposition on the October 3 attack.

Khadiza said Badrul Alam hacked her with an intention to kill, according to court sources.

The court will start hearing arguments on March 1, said Mahfuzur Rahman, additional public prosecutor of the court.

Khadiza, a second year student of Sylhet Government Women's College, came under attack after she refused to get into a relationship with Badrul.

Badrul is a suspended student of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) and suspended leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League unit at the university. He confessed to the crime in court. After being treated at hospitals in Dhaka and Savar, Khadiza returned home in Sylhet on February 24.

Khadiza at court yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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