

১৮ MAR 1995

গুরু কলাম

The Bangladesh Times

Future of Ideal School in jeopardy

By A Staff Reporter

The future of the country's one of the best schools-Ideal School and College-at Motijheel in jeopardy following dispute over "reserved quota" for children of the residents of government colony at Motijheel in new admissions.

The situation has aggravated during past couple of weeks and at least on two occasions, pro-quota elements allegedly blasted crude hand bombs at the entrance of the school and announced a programme to lay siege around the school today (Saturday).

These incidents have the guardians of the students of the school panicky and apprehensive of the safety and security of their children.

The dispute originated when the school authority in 1993 decided to close down Class One and Class Two. The residents of the Motijheel Colony raised strong objections to the decision. However, at a meeting at-

tended by school authority, the Education Minister, the Education Secretary and Representatives of the Residents of the Motijheel Government Colony, a decision was taken to continue Class One and two and withdraw the reserved quota for the children of the colony in 1995, sources said.

When this year, the school authority implemented the decision to withdraw quota, the residents of the colony raised strong protests saying that the school authority had no right to withdraw the reserved quota introduced decades back.

The school authority alleged that often irregular practices were indulged in to get students admitted into the school under reserved quota. Moreover they argued, there was no reserved quota in any one of at least half of a dozen school and colleges situated within the Motijheel Colony area.

A section of guardians of Motijheel Colony has been bringing out processions and implementing other programmes in support of their demand for the continuation of quota system. They have also brought allegations against school authority. Meanwhile, guardians residing outside the Motijheel Colony area held an impromptu meeting at the school premises on Thursday and later submitted a memorandum to Mirza Abbas MP, who is also the President of the Ideal School and college Managing Committee, and requested him to ensure congenial academic atmosphere and safety and security of the students of the school.

According to a press release of the Ideal School Guardians Forum, Mr Abbas requested the guardians to come to his office Friday morning. On Friday at a meeting attended by Abbas, representatives of the guardians of the colony and the forum, it was decided to postpone a programme of siege scheduled to be held today (Saturday).

But in the evening when a meeting of the forum was in progress bombs were exploded at the entrance of the school and announcement was made to implement the programme of siege today, the press release said.

The guardians have appealed to the police administration and authorities concerned to take necessary measures for ensuring safety of the teachers and students.