

Nat'l anthem not sung in 25,000 elementary schools

Mohiuddin Alamgir

THE national anthem is not sung in nearly 25,000 elementary schools out of a total of 1.08 lakh, according to the Education Watch Report for the year 2015.

The institutions include primary schools, kindergartens and primary madrasahs.

The same report states that the national flag is not hoisted in 10,800 elementary schools.

Students of about 23 per cent or 25,000 primary schools, kindergarten and madrasahs do not sing National Anthem prior to the beginning of school and about 10,800 or 10 per cent such schools do not hoist national flag, said Education Watch Report 2015, that was published on December

19 last year.

New Age found out that neither the national anthem is sung nor the national flag is hoisted in thousands of un-registered Qoumi madrasahs.

It provides a sorry backdrop as the nation is poised to celebrate its 46th Independence Day Saturday.

In May 2014, the Liberation War Affairs Ministry made a written request to the ministries of education and primary and mass education to make national flag hoisting and national anthem singing mandatory for all the educational institutions in Bangladesh.

LWA minister AKM Mozammel Huq called it 'unfortunate' that neither the national flag is hoisted nor the national anthem is sung in so many schools.

Stern action would be taken against the schools where the national flag is not raised and the national anthem is not sung, said director general of primary education Md Alamgir.

When New Age sought his comments, he said that he even did not know that that the national flag is not raised and the national anthem is not sung in so many schools.

Replying to a question he admitted that there is a directive to all the schools to hoist the national flag and to ensure that the students sang the national anthem on every school day.

A senior official in the primary education directorate said the kindergartens skip holding assemblies when the national anthem is sung while raising the na-

tional flag simply due to lack of open spaces.

There are about 14,000 qoumi madrasahs across the country according to an unpublished study of Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, better known as BANBEIS.

As there is a debate among Islamic scholars over whether Islam allowed singing the national anthem it is not sung in qoumi madrasahs, said Maulana Jobaer Ahmed Chowdhury assistant secretary general of Bafaqul Madarisil Arabia Bangladesh [Bangladesh Qoumi Madrasah Education Board].

He, however, said that the national flag was hoisted at most of the qoumi madrasahs barring those in the rural areas.