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School feeding programme to resume soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon resume the school feeding programme in those schools where the programme had been suspended after some students reportedly fell sick after eating biscuits.

The World Food Programme (WFP) distributes biscuits among the students in the schools across the country under the programme.

"We have the biscuits tested in all the laboratories in the country and in several laboratories abroad and it has been proved that the biscuits are not responsible for illness in the students," Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin said at a press conference yesterday.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar

Hossain, Secretary in-charge Badrul Alam Tarafdar and WFP Representative John Aylieff were present at the press conference.

The minister said the school feeding programme is contributing to the implementation of the government's policy of universal primary education by improving access to basic education.

"Biscuits will be distributed among the children in Ramadan and the ministry has already issued a circular in this regard," he said.

He also said, "We are going to undertake another Tk 800 crore project of school feeding in 80 upazilas of the country."

State Minister Motahar Hossain said children of two districts fell sick reportedly after eating biscuits, but the reason behind their illness is

few students has suffered psychological and mental problems.

"We have the biscuits tested in the country and in Thailand and the United Kingdom. No harmful ingredients were found in biscuits," he said.

Secretary in-charge Badrul Alam Tarafdar said students of class one and two in the reported areas fell sick, but the students of class four and five of the same school did not fall sick.

The incident took place in two schools in Mohalchhari and four to five schools in Laxmichhari, Khagachhari and in one school in Barguna.

Currently, around 10 lakh children of 7,000 schools in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Kishoreganj, three hill districts, and five Sidr-hit districts are the beneficiaries of the programme.