

Teachers, guardians worry **Thirty students of a primary school faint in Chuadanga.**

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, June 14:—The students of Ballakandi Govt Primary School in Sadar Upazila have become panic-stricken at the outbreak of a disease diagnosed as mass-psychogenesis.

At least 25 to 30 students of the school became fainted and swooned on the ground one by one on June 9.

The teachers and guardians of the students and Padmabila Union Education Standing Committee members expressed their concern over the sudden illness of so many students at a time and informed the local NGO Rural Economy Social Welfare Organisation (RESWO), Sadar upazila Lokmorcha, upazila administration, upazila primary education office, the health and the district administration.

Sadar Upazila Primary Education Officer, Lokmorcha team went to the school on June 9 to ascertain the situation and saw themselves that some students identified as Shantwana, Sumi, Zakaria, Sakina, Lucky, Runa,

Khadija, Sharifa, Bonnya, Selina, Jharna, Mitu, Rupaly, Asma, Jyoty and others swooned on the ground in presence of the visiting team members.

Dr. ANM Bazlur Rahman, Civil Surgeon accompanying a medical team went to the school and examined the sick students. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner rushed to the school and inquired about the

disease and soon convened a meeting the same day where the civil-surgeon said that only students fell sick with the symptom of the disease few days ago which created a panic among the students who became mentally sick.

The civil surgeon advised the teachers and their guardians of the to remove fear from their mind encouraging them to be mentally fit.

The students who suffer from malnutrition become physically weak, suffer from depression and are vulnerable to mass-psychogenesis. Social awareness is needed

to remove superstition and fear from the students who should be encouraged to be free from depression.

The affected students regained their sense and felt well after the treatment.

Sadar Upazila UNO Md Shahabuddin Khan, UZEO Sayeduzzaman, District Food Controller Arifuzzaman, Dr Fayezunnesa, UZHO, Dr. Abdur Rashid, Padmabila UP Chairman Abu Taher Biswas, Abul Hashem ATEO, Jahangir Alam, Youth Development Officer, SI Zamat Ali, RESWO Executive Director Zahidul Islam, UZ Lokmorcha president Shahudul Haque Biswas, Lokmorcha Vice-President Advocate Nawsher Ali, Mariam Shelly, Social Worker, Pamabila Union Bokmorocha Secretary Humayun Kabir, Health Assistants-Sayedur Rahman Faruque Hossain Miah, Abdur Razzoque, Local newsmen and elite of Ballakandi village visited the sick students at the school the same day.