

## SUPERVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS NGO to implement only the pilot project: Adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury yesterday said a non-government organisation (NGO) has been given permission to supervise all primary schools in 20 upazilas across the country through a pilot programme for improving the standard of primary education.

"We need supports from all stakeholders including NGOs for improving the quality of education in primary level. With this end in view, we gave an NGO the responsibility of monitoring all the primary schools in 20 upazilas across the country. It is an experimental programme, not a permanent one," the adviser said this at a publication ceremony.

She further also said ministry and directorate of primary education will monitor the pilot project and make a report after completion of mid-term and final supervision evaluating the performance of the NGO.

"The ministry will cancel the pilot project if the NGO fails to reach its target," she mentioned

while addressing at the publication ceremony of 'Haalkhata-2008', the annual report on primary education by private research organisation Power and Partnership Research Centre (PPRC) at Agargaon LGED Bhaban in the city.

Earlier on May 23, the government took the decision to hand over the project to Brac for supervising the primary schools in 20 upazilas. But the teachers of primary schools strongly criticised the decision, saying it is an initial process to privatise the primary education.

The adviser denied the allegation, saying that the monitoring programme of the government on primary education has not been given to any NGOs.

"I ask the media to disclose this issue clearly so that misunderstanding among the teachers and countrymen can be eliminated," she added.

Rasheda said the Brac training programme will run on holidays without interrupting the ongoing regular training programme of directorate of primary education and also total academic activities.

"The pilot programme of Brac will assist the government's second phase of Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-II)," the adviser added.

Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman said the government's different policies on education will be relaxed in the practical field.

"We take decision sitting in the secretariat, but the decision may not be adjusted in the field level. Now we decided that the government policy will be relaxed evaluating the field-level observation. Otherwise, the target of ensuring quality education for all will not be achieved," he added.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Mosharaf Hossain Bhuiyan, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Prof Ahmed Kamal and Dr Atiur Rahman also addressed the function.

In a press release yesterday, Bangladesh Primary teachers' Association said it will observe work abstention for two hours in all primary schools on June 14 and 15 demanding the withdrawal of the government decision.