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Schools lack fire safety

2.64 crore students and teachers exposed to fire hazard

Mohiuddin Alamgir

OVER 2.64 crore primary and secondary school students and teachers are exposed to high risk of fire accidents as their institutions have no fire fighting system. Most of the students are not even aware of fire safety as the school managements do not provide them any training on how to tackle emergencies.

All the schools should acquaint the students with fire-drills, establish numerous exits, install smoke detectors and make fire extinguishers accessible as precautionary measures against any eventualities and worried educationists and guardians.

They demanded that adequate numbers of fire extinguishers should be installed at visible points at all the schools.

They also called for holding mock drills at regular intervals and keeping water or sand available on school campuses.

On school notice boards emergency telephone numbers should be displayed, they said.

The notice boards should and dakhlil madrassas

According to the Primary School Census report 2010 there are about 79,000 primary schools and 100,000 madrasahs, schools and ibt- ing 63,660 government

The Fire Service and Civil Defence director general Ahmed Khan suggested for installing fire extinguishers in school buildings for the safety of the students and the teachers.

For schools housed in high rise buildings fire extinguishers are a must, he said.

Primary Education director general Shyamal Kanti Ghosh and Secondary and Higher Education director general Fahima Khatoon advised to New Age that no school buildings and premises should be equipped with fire extinguishers in the secondary schools and madrasahs in the country.

Only 400 new school buildings established in past years usually take primary and secondary education into account, he said.

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