

তারিখ ... 14 MAY 2013 ...  
পৃষ্ঠা ... ১ ...

## Ministers doubt use of laptop, projector at pry schools

Mohiuddin Alamgir

THE primary and mass education minister, Afsarul Ameen, and the state minister, Motahar Hossain, on Monday doubted proper use of the laptop and multimedia projectors being provided to government primary schools.

They expressed the doubt at the inaugurating programme of the distribution of laptops and multimedia projectors the Directorate of Primary Education conference room.

They were critical of handing over the devices to teachers who were 'not trained'. They also doubted the maintenance of the devices at the schools.

The department began the distribution of laptops and projectors by handing over 54 primary schools of 34 upazilas in Chittagong and Rangpur divisions, the home divisions of Afsarul and Motahar respectively.

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The department has plan to distribute laptops and projectors to 1,000 government primary schools by May and 7,434 schools by 2013 and 37,672 schools by June 2016.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, there are about 79,000 various types of primary schools including 63,860 government primary schools.

Before distributing laptops, Afsarul asked how many of the 54 headmasters were trained or knew how to

use a laptop and a projector and 18 headmasters replied in negative.

The department officials, however, said that although these 18 headmasters were not trained, at least one of the teachers of their schools was trained.

Afsarul asked the headmasters to use the laptops and projectors for the welfare of the students. 'Do not keep these laptops in cupboard wrapping with cloths, or in the house of school managing committee president or influential member's or at your home' Afsarul

said.

Motahar Hossain shared his experience about providing computers to the 61 schools of the Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat. 'After six months of distribution, I found that only five computers were in operation, most of them were kept in the cupboard. Teachers said that they did not allow students as they could damage the computers,' Motahar said.

Primary education director general Shyamal Kanti Ghosh chaired the programme.