



Kindergartens

The authorities are reportedly studying a plan to reorganise the kindergarten system of education in the country. This move by the authorities has come in the wake of growing concern among the guardians over arbitrary fixation and repeated enhancement of tuition fees and other charges by a section of the kindergarten managements.

There are now more than 3000 kindergartens spread over the country, including about 300 in the metropolitan Dhaka. Not many of the kindergartens fulfil the expectations of the guardians regarding the education of their wards; the money they spend to keep their wards at the kindergartens is not in all cases in keeping with the service given in return.

In spite of the shortcomings of many of the kindergartens an increasing number of guardians in urban areas prefer to send their children to a kindergarten. This shows their declining confidence in the traditional system of primary education. They want their children to learn English and they believe it is kindergartens where their children will learn some English. But, unfortunately, the quality of English teaching in many of these kindergartens leaves much to be desired.

It is time the authorities pondered over the question why urban guardians prefer kindergartens, and took measures to ensure that they get the desired results. But measures to improve the kindergarten system of education must not be such as may discourage the opening of such institutions through private initiatives. Let more kindergartens be opened but let there be some regulatory measures to protect the interests of the children and their guardians. Any move that may discourage the opening of new institutions by private individuals or groups will have a negative impact on the education sector.