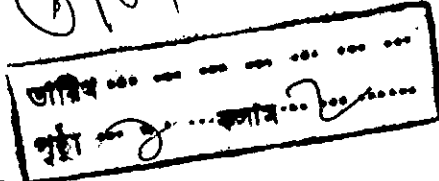


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Seminar on Community Dev

Pry student enrolment rises to 59 pc, literacy rate 65 pc

Staff Correspondent

Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Chowdhury said tremendous success has been achieved in the education sector, particularly in the field of Primary and Adult-literacy, due to the present government's pragmatic and need-oriented education programmes.

Addressing seminar on Community development through literacy in Bangladesh held at the auditorium of the National Mu-

seum on Wednesday Sajeda Chowdhury said student enrolment at Primary level has stood at 59 per cent while the literacy rate at 65 per cent during the last five years. Over 23 lakh students are brought under Food for Education Programme while several lakh others are given financial facilities, she added.

Organised by Bangladesh Scholarship Council (BSC), the seminar was presided over by National Professor Dr Nurul Islam and addressed, among others, by Dr Aminul Islam as special guest. Founding President of BSC Ajit K Barua made the Opening speech while BSC Advisor Rabindranath Das delivered Welcome Address.

Sajeda Chowdhury said the women literacy rate has stood at 42.04 per cent and if the Education programmes are continued a landmark achievement will be made in the days to come.

Referring to the formulating of the Education Policy the Minister said a silent revolution will take place in education sector if Education Policy is implemented

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Pry students

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properly. She said that the government was implementing various programmes at different levels to ensure education for all. Referring to the government's initiatives to establish 12 more Science and Technology Universities and 12 vocational institutes the Minister said the government has already started construction of the infrastructures for these universities and institutes.

She called upon all including different Non-Government Organisations to come up with pragmatic programmes to educate people across the country.

Prof Aminul Islam in his speech said the prime aim of education is to make the people aware of human values and norms. The country does not need Ph.D holders rather it needs people who are enlightened with proper education, he added.

National Professor Nurul Islam said the country's overall academic atmosphere has been destroyed because of violence and terrorism. The involvement of teachers in party politics is encouraging their pupils to do politics, he added. Referring to campus violence he said "Teachers are patronising terrorism and libraries are made armouries". There are some honest and dedicated teachers but they are not coming ahead to resist violence and terrorism, he added.

Ajit K Barua in his speech said BSC will increase the number of its stipend recipients from 200 to 300 this year. The amount of annual stipend will also be increased to Taka 8000 from 6000.