

## Universal free primary edn. stressed

Varsity Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on "Expansion of Education and Improvement of Standard" on Saturday stressed the need for a universal free primary education to expand the education at the mass level and to increase the standard.

The seminar was organised by Ministry of Education on the occasion of Education Week, at the Shilpakala Academy on Saturday. The key-note paper was presented by Prof. Shamsul Haq, former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and a Member of University Grants Commission.

Presided over by Education Secretary Mr. Hedayet Ahmed, the main

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## Primary education

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speaker of the seminar was Dr. Mafiz Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of the National Education Commission. Earlier, the week was formally inaugurated by President Hossain Mohammed Ershad.

In his paper Prof. Shamsul Haq said that political will of leaders and smooth academic atmosphere could ensure the standard of education.

He said to materialise the objective of education for all by the year 2000 it was necessary to enhance budget in education sector, number of educational institutions in every levels, and to increase the number of qualified teachers.

He observed that if the adult and primary education could be started from 1991, the country would have 50 per cent literacy level by the turn of the century. In this connection, he stressed on vocational, agricultural, scientific and technological education for the overall development and improvement of the country.

Prof. Shamsul Haq categorically commented that country's secondary schools should be merged with higher secondary schools, while the primary schools with lower secondary schools. He said that this would help improve the standard at those level as well as at the under graduate levels. Prof. Haq proposed to set up universities in the district level that would reduce the pressure on the existing one. He hailed the Open University programme and said there should be used modern technologies.

The former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University said that the teachers-students relationship should be improved and free exchange of ideas between them should be encouraged.

He also underscored the recasting of the existing examination system to make it meaningful and useful to improve the standard.

Dr. Mafiz Uddin Ahmed discussed the paper and said a powerful infrastructure was needed for the expansion of the country's education and to improve the standard. He suggested to increase the financial help to the

educational institutions.

Mr. Hedayet Ahmed said as education was an inherent part of the national development, government was doing everything what was possible. In this connection he called upon the people to come forward to help the Government to determine education for all by the year 2000. He hoped that the Education Week and this seminar would make people concern.

### Recommendations

BSS adds:—The seminar recommended that effective measures be taken to widen the sphere of education and improve its standards so that education could be productive and meaningful in our greater national life.

The seminar suggested that local entrepreneurs should also come forward to cooperate with the Government in the very sphere of education sector for its expansion.

It felt that the steps should be taken to renew and modify the education curricula and syllabi. It also felt the necessity of changing the process and principle to remove irregularities and mismanagement in the examination system.

The seminar recommended that there should be a clear cut policy regarding nationalisation of the educational institutions. It called for registration of all educational institutions.

In the administration side, the seminar recommended that education-administration system should be reorganised and at the same time there should be decentralisation of power and duty.

Mr. Mujibul Haq, summing up the discussion, said that the teacher should give leadership in the society as he is traditionally considered an ideal man.

Referring to the drop outs, the Cabinet Secretary said the teachers have also a big role to play by motivating the guardians not to stop their wards going to school at the primary level.