

Illiteracy-free country in four years: PM

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday that the present Government would free the country from the curse of illiteracy during the next four years through its pragmatic education policy.

Defending the Dacca University (Amendment) Bill, 1981 which was later passed by the House, the Prime Minister said that 27 lakh people had already been given functional education during the last 9 months.

The Prime Minister said that since he had taken over the Education Ministry, the students of the Dacca University, except a few, had been attending their classes regularly. This was possible with the introduction of semester system in the Dacca University in which the students were to attend their classes to get through the examinations. According to the records, there had been record attendance in the classes of the University since the introduction of the system, he said.

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normal functioning. He said that the Government paid 30 per cents of the revenue expenditure and 100 per cent of the development expenditure of all universities. In many countries, autonomous universities were run without government assistance, he said. The Prime Minister asked the opposition not to judge their popularity by witnessing the gathering in their meetings at Baitul Mukarram. Please go to the villages and see where do you stand, he said.

ASADUZZAMAN KHAN
Earlier, a number of Opposition members during their discussion on the Bill hailed the Government for bringing the amendment. Some of them, however, suggested some more amendments in the Bill but welcomed the bill generally. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Asaduzzaman Khan, said that the amendments

The Prime Minister, who is also the Leader of the House, said that the Government would spend 50 crore Taka for giving scholarships to the meritorious students during the next five years. For this purpose, Shah Aziz said, a meritorious students pool had been constituted.

Refuting the Opposition criticism that the condition in the country's universities had deteriorated, the Prime Minister said that it was the present Government which ordered the holding of elections for students' unions in all colleges and universities. During the BKSAL period, the students were not allowed to hold elections.

He said that the elections of the DUCSU and Dacca University Hall unions were not held for six years. But he had given order for holding these elections, he said.

The Prime Minister said that the universities were autonomous bodies and except deciding broad policies the Government did not interfere in their

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would not fulfil all the demands of the university teachers. He demanded that the amendments made subsequently to the Presidential Order 1973 should be repealed and the Presidential Order should be implemented in full.

He said that the then Government issued the Presidential order, 1973 to democratise the Dacca University as an institution and things went in perfect order. The trouble began when the government amended the Presidential Order in 1977.

He said that by bringing the present amendments, the present Government had conceded that the order of 1973 was a good decision.

Mr Shahjahan Siraj (JSD), Mr Mozammel Huq (IDL), Salahuddin Yusuf (AL-Hasina), Prof Mofizul Islam (BJL), Mr A S M. Solaiman, Prof Rafiqullah Choudhury of Gonafront, Capt (Reid) Anwarullah of AL (Hasina), Prof Muzaffar Ahmed (NAP-M), Mr Almas Hossain (ML), Mr Imajuddin Pramanik (AL-Hasina), Mr Rashed Khan Menon and Mr Suranjit Sen Gupta also took part in the discussion on the Bill.