

Academics tell roundtable Party politics in instts hampers education

The standard of education in the country's educational institutions continues to fall due to politics both by teachers and students, noted academics told a roundtable here Friday, reports UNB.

"Educational institutions have become battlefields these days as students are provided with firearms," said former caretaker adviser Prof Dr Zillur Rahman Siddiqui.

Dr Siddiqui, also former Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, presided over the roundtable titled 'Education-Examinees and Expectation', organized by SHEBA Bangladesh Foundation at the Press Institute of Bangladesh.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hos-

sain, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Department of BUET Dr Mohammad Kaikobad, Professor of Development Studies Department of Dhaka University Dr Atiur Rahman,

Chairman of SHEBA Bangladesh Foundation Prof Dr Shawkat Ara Hossain, Country Director of The Hunger Project Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, BUET Prof Dr Abdur Rahim, Country Representative of

Inters Human Right Organization of Sudan Sakhwate Khan and AI.RD executive director Shamsul Huda took part in the discussion.

Dr Kamal said both teachers and students should have better moral integrity, values and the spirit of nationalism, and these qualities fully depend on the standard of education. "Universities as well as the Secretariat are now flooded with PhD degree holders as if there is an PhD epidemic," he said.

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students, Dr Kamal said once Dhaka University students had played a very glorious role in various movements like the language movement in 1952 and during the 1960s, and those movements were led by meritorious student leaders.

"Even in the 1960s, the Dhaka University had been able to maintain the international standard of education because the politics at that time used to promote moral values among the students," he said.

He said appointment of adequate teachers based on merit is very essential to ensure the quality of education in the country.

Emphasising the importance of improving the quality of education at the primary level, Dr Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said, "Our standard of education is poor because our schools remained neglected. We only concentrate on universities as we don't understand the importance of schools," he said.

He suggested the university authorities to reintroduce tutorial system as it helps the students interact with their teachers at a close atmosphere. "Small group teaching is no longer found in universities."

Country Director of The Hunger Project Dr Badiul Alam Majumder said the teachers of primary and secondary schools have become "bureaucrats", due to party politics.

Prof Kaikobad laid emphasis on transparency in the educational sector to raise the standard of universities of the country. "When it comes to socio-political index, our institutions fall to the bottom and this happens for lack of transparency," he said.

Economist Dr Atiur Rahman said the education sector is passing through a great disaster as the country has failed to produce quality teachers.

Dr Shawkat Ara Hossain said Bangladesh would lag behind if the standard of education is not maintained properly. "Everything is competitive in today's world."

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