

Discussants opine at roundtable

Quality edn, cost reduction to be ensured in pvt varsities

Staff Correspondent

The role and contribution of 54 private universities in higher education in the country were discussed at a roundtable conference organised by the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh where the discussants urged for sharing quality education as well as reducing the cost.

"Requirement of standard must be maintained in the private universities and unless we detect the limitations we can not improve. The decentralisation in the divisional headquarters is a must for selecting places for the universities," said National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam at the roundtable.

Presided over by the Chairman

of the Association MA Kashem, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed attended the conference as the chief guest. Among others, entrepreneur MA Hasem MP, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of The News Today Reazuddin Ahmed, Journalist Mozammel Hossain, Educationist Hafiz GA Siddiqui, Dr. Rahim B. Talukdar, Professor AHM Nuruddin, Professor Aminul Islam and Dr. Khalilur Rahman participated in the discussion. Vice Chancellor of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) Professor M.

Alimullah Miyan presented the key-note paper.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed said in the last four and a half year the present Government gave permission for establishing 34 private universities in the country.

"The private universities must be flourished in the country and it is expected that no compromise will be made in keeping the quality of the education," said Barrister Moudud at the discussion.

MA Hasem MP said the initiative of setting up private universities in the countries should be encouraged. He said in the initial stage there might be some lack

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Quality edn

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ings but it would be removed if given the appropriate time.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the objective of establishing private universities is to provide qualitative education in the country. But it has to be considered how much tuition fees they are taking. What the guardians were getting by expending huge money.

He said some private universities have 'earned' bad name for their ill performance and the association has the responsibility to whip on the issue.

"Some of you have established university at the garments building or anywhere of the city and no atmosphere is maintained in these institutions," he lamented.

Reaziuddin Ahmed said the quality of education in the public universities especially the Dhaka University has deteriorated.

"Even, we could not find a student of the university who can write five English sentences correctly," he lamented.

Mozammel Hossain said the University Grants Commission identified eight private universities as sub-standard. Later, two were exempted from the charges. But no body knows, what actions were taken about the rest six universities.

In his key-note paper Professor M. Alimullah Miyan said the private universities in Bangladesh have mostly adopted the North American model of higher education introducing four years for undergraduate degrees and two years for Masters, as well as semesters as academic terms.

He said it has been estimated that at the present rate of 10 per cent getting admission, around 185000 students will seek higher education in public universities by the year 2025. Creation of this additional capacity in the public sector will require establishment of 12 new universities with an investment of Tk 160 billion averaging 6000 students per university.