

Education policy must meet needs of time : PM

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Thursday: we must have to formulate an educational policy which is scientific and which meets the requirement of the present day world, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister, who is in charge of the Education Ministry, said: we can no longer go with a two hundred-year-old education system, which was framed by the colonial rulers. We have to recast the whole education system with the changed circumstances, he emphasised.

Shah Aziz was speaking at a reception arranged by Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association at Lal Kuthi auditorium. Mr Mohammad Obaidullah, Vice-President of the association, presided over the function. Earlier, through a memorandum to the Prime Minister, various difficulties faced by the association were highlighted.

Shah Aziz said democracy has been restored in the country and a sovereign parliament is functioning which is empowered to frame any law. He said any decision of national importance will now be settled in the Jatiya Sangsad.

PRICE SPIRAL

While dwelling on the recent price hike of newsprint, which the publishers have alleged to have caused them a great hardship, the Prime Minister said, price spiral was a global phenomenon and Bangladesh was not a special case. He said there is an inflationary tendency throughout the world and the price of all kinds of commodities are rising. Shah Aziz said the population boom was putting new pressure and had complicated

the already complex national problem.

The Prime Minister called for a production-oriented economy based on the spirit of self-reliance. He said if we succeed in building a self-reliant economy, all sections of the people including the publishers will also be benefitted.

The Prime Minister assured the members of the association that the Government would give due consideration to their genuine demands.

SULTAN AHMED

According to another report from Chittagong, Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad today said that the Government was contemplating introduction of a technical bias education system at the secondary level to produce skilled manpower in the country.

He said, as our land was extremely limited, we can not go for extension of our agriculture and as such we must

Contd. on page 8 col. 3

Education policy

Contd. from page 1

set up more factories and workshops for while we need skilled manpower.

Speaking as chief guest at the biennial conference of Chittagong Sadar (north) Sub-division Teachers' Association at the Municipal High School auditorium here this morning, Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury pointed out that the present education system which was introduced by the colonial rulers long ago did not reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people and that it should be changed according to the demand of modern times and as so our needs.

The conference presided over by Mr. Nurul Karim, an educationist was addressed by Messrs. Jan-e-Alam, A.K. Mahmudul Huq, Rafiqul Anwar Siddiqui, Anil Kumar Das, Ashit Kumar Lala and Preeti Sen all teachers.

The Deputy Speaker said that steps were being taken to make a comparative accounts of expenditure involved in the general and technical education at the higher level. This, he said, was done to have an idea about the expenditure that would involve in the technical education at the secondary level.

Mr. Sultan Ahmed said that the Government was also thinking of decentralization of primary education. He hinted that elected representatives of the people might be involved in the management of the primary schools. He said that it was well high impossible on the part of the Government alone to run the educational institutions all over the country.

Regarding a number of demands by the secondary school teachers, the Deputy Speaker assured that those would be considered by the Government with sympathy. In this connection, he mentioned that the increased monetary benefit given to the teachers in the form of teachers' welfare allowance would be given soon.

Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury called upon the teachers to help evolve an effective education system which could ensure production of "useful man" in the society.

He said that the present Government under the dynamic leadership of President Zia would do everything pos-

sible for the welfare of the teachers. He said that the Government would not give any false promise to the people but always go by the reality. "We will honour our pledges to the people" he added.

The Deputy Speaker said that the hard earned freedom would be meaningful only when we would be able to bring about an economic emancipation for the teeming millions. In the conference, Mr. Harishadan Dutta read a paper on "The role of teachers" in checking erosion of the values of secondary education, which was followed by a lively discussion.