



Call to keep education above party interest

By A Staff Reporter

Speakers at an education seminar on Monday called upon the students, teachers, guardians, the government and people of all strata to keep education above party interest to save the youth community from degeneration and ruination.

They felt an urgent need of a consensus on united efforts to create congenial atmosphere at the educational institutions at any cost.

The seminar was organised by the Education Ministry on the occasion of Education Week 1989. Chaired by the Education Secretary, Mr Hedayat Ahmed, the

seminar heard the key-note paper from the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof. Abdul Bari. Among others, Chairman of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, Prof. Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, Director General of Bangla Academy, Prof Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, Director General of Secondary and Higher Education, Dr A H M Karim, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) Dr Abdul Baten Khan and UGC member Prof. Shamsul Haq took part in the discussion.

In his paper on "education environment and examination system in Bangladesh" Prof. Bari said educational institutions "can not get rid of the ills unless corruption is eradicated from the society". He said the teacher community, for whatever reason it might be, has lost its past glory. They are not yet in the position of utmost respect and unquestionable dignity. He said questions have been raised about their legibility, efficiency, dutifulness and

Contd on page 8 col 4

Education

Contd. from page 1

impartiality in evaluating examination scripts. He said there is need for giving new thought to the selection, appointment and training system and social dignity and research and higher education opportunities for the teachers.

Prof. Bari called for proper recognition to the efficient and devoted teachers and also arrangements for measures against the teachers who are inefficient or averse to work.

The UGC Chairman pleaded for regular evaluation of the teachers along with the students. He said such evaluation of the teachers can be made by themselves, by students, colleagues, experts or by the authority.

Prof. Bari said the HSC pass-outs have to wait for a long time to appear at the tests for entry into universities or medical colleges. But most of the students do not get the opportunity to study the subjects of their preference. The students who get the chance for admission soon find themselves encircled by some students whose main concern is something else than education. Universities are frequently closed. Class lectures are insipid, irregular and conventional. They find the libraries and laboratories poorly equipped and thus lose the zeal with which they entered into the higher educational institutions.

Referring to a report by the Bangladesh Education Commission Prof. Bari said all the examinations have become farcical. About five thousand officers and employees remain engaged in examination centres. Section 144 is imposed around the examination centres and arrangements are made for 'strict guard'. But even then there are reports of

'mass copying'. "Peace is disturbed, examination halls turn into battle fields and examinations in many centres have to be cancelled."

Prof Bari said most of the people are still unaware about the objective of education. He said the education system at present is unplanned. It is not yet clear which category of manpower is to be developed.

(Incomplete)