

Centralised body to conduct HSC, SSC exams soon

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Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Sunday said the Government was considering formation of a centralised agency to conduct secondary and higher secondary examinations reports BSS.

Such an agency would replace the existing secondary education boards to ensure a uniform standard throughout the country, the Prime Minister said.

He was addressing the sixth annual general meeting of the Foundation for Research on Educational Planning and Development (FREPD) in Dacca on Sunday. The Foreign Minister, Prof Shamsul Huq who is also President of the Foundation, presided over.

Shah Aziz stressed the need for reforming the existing examination system to bring about uniformity in educational standards. He said the Government was determined to bring about revolutionary changes in the entire education system.

The Prime Minister said the Government was also contemplating formation of a council committee that would ensure a uniform law for all universities of the country. He stressed that there should be a system of accountability between the universities and the Government.

Shah Aziz who is in charge of the Ministry of Education, said that the entire education system must be work-orient-

ted which would provide employment to the younger generation while helping economic development of the country as well.

He said the standard of general education had greatly deteriorated while the figure of unemployed young men in our society had increased. That was why he added, the Government emphasised on development of the vocational and technical education.

Referring to the primary education, the Prime Minister said, more than 40 per cent of the total allocation in the education sector during the Second Five-Year Plan would be invested for developing primary education.

Addressing the meeting, Prof Shamsul Huq said that the principal objective of the Foundation was to provide an institutional frame within which research on educational planning and development could be undertaken with a multi-disciplinary approach.

He said the thrust of research activities of the Foundation was directed towards

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making education an effective agent of change in the economic, social and cultural development of the country.

Prof Huq pointed out that the country's majority of the total population had been deprived in the past of any educational opportunity and that there was an ever-increasing number of educated youth who remained unemployed or inappropriately employed.

The Foreign Minister, however expressed the hope that the deleterious process would be arrested by the present policy of the Government for rapid expansion of work-oriented education system.

Prof Huq also gave resume of the activities of the FREPD which so far had completed two important research projects. The Foundation has now been working on a third research project on The Study of Children in Bangladesh with financial support from the UNICEF.

Prof F H Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Dacca University, addressing the function as special guest, stressed the need for ensuring permanent recurring grant for the Foundation so that it could carry on research activities on educational development.

The function was also addressed by Dr Selim, Chairman of FREPD Research Board and Mr K A Qussem, Member Secretary of the Foundation.