

Publish text books before session: Sircar

Crisis and solution in the publication industry in Bangladesh were discussed at a seminar held under the aegis of Bangladesh Nagorik Adhikar Parishad at the Engineers Institute in Dhaka Friday afternoon, reports BSS.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar attended the function as the chief guest while State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahanara Begum was the special guest.

Mr Sircar expressed his optimism that crisis in the publication industry could be solved with sincere efforts of publishers, writers and readers. "I am an optimist" Barrister Sircar said adding it could be solved with our combined efforts.

He stressed the need for car-

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rying out research work on worthy sons of the soil like Sher-E-Bangla, Poet Alaul and Poet Kaikobad and publish these so that the people could know about our worthy sons of the soil.

Referring to the problems of the publishers, the Education Minister said "you should also discharge your responsibilities to the nation first". He urged them to see that text books were published before the education session and those were sold without note books. He regretted that some publishers forced the students and guardians to buy note books along with the text books, "this is very unfortunate", he said.

Prof. Jahanara begum said that a book policy has been formulated and it was lying with the Law Ministry for scrutiny. She said her ministry had to set up different enquiry committees to find out the irregularities in various organisations under the ministry.

The publishers demanded that incentive bonus should be introduced on book export and price of papers be reduced. They suggested that importers bringing Indian books should be asked to export books worth at least fifty percent of import.

Mr M. A. Mohaimin, president of the parishad, presented a key-note paper. Among others, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Prof. Abdul Gafur, Mrs Khaleda Salahuddin, writer Mokbula Manzur, writer Zobaida Gulshan Ara, Janata Editor Sanaulah Noori, Mr Osman Ghani, Mr Ahsanullah Fatik and Hamidul Islam participated in the discussion.