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Realistic education urged

Prof Mofizuddin Ahmed, Chairman, National Education Commission has emphasised the need for a life-oriented and realistic education system in the country.

Inaugurating a two-day workshop on "Education system in Bangladesh, its problems and possible solutions" Prof Ahmed called upon participants to make such recommendations for incorporation with the report of the Commission so that these become acceptable to people for all time and to all governments in future.

He said that the teachers of government and private schools should have the same qualifications and payscale and their selections and appointments should be made under the same process.

Jointly organised by the National Education Commission and the Bangladesh Institute of Distance Education (BIDE) the workshop was held at the conference room of BIDE. Prof. K. M. Sirajul Islam, Director, BIDE presided over the inaugural session on February 8.

Pointing to the appointment of the educational administrators like the Directors and Directors-General as Principals of different colleges Prof Ahmed said that the workshop should also look into the pros and cons of this practice very deeply.

MALPRACTICE

Referring to primary education he said there were allegations that one has to spend Taka 15 to 20 thousand for getting appointment as a primary teacher. Ways should be found to "minimise" this malpractice, he added.

He said there were one lakh and 60 thousand primary teachers in the country and there



MANIKGANJ: A nursery-level student of 'Shishu Manjuri School' reciting a poem at a function held recently — Times.

was one Assistant Education Officer for every 20 primary schools to look after their functioning. Yet, he said, reports were there that the teachers were not attending classes as required.

Referring to higher education

he said that the universities were not able to function properly due to increased complicity in the university administration.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY

Presenting a paper at the working session on "Higher edu-

tion" Prof A.M. Haroon-or-Rashid of Dhaka University said during the last seven and a half years Dhaka University remained closed for four-and-a-half years. He said due to session jam it required about eight years for a student to complete his four-year course, but they did not learn anything additional.

Prof. Haroor-or-Rashid strongly opposed the proposals for introduction of three-year Honours course in all colleges. He said that such "inconsiderate steps" would create more catastrophe to higher education.

He said Honours degrees were necessary only for education and research. For all other professions and jobs it was not necessary at all. Why then the guardians and the nation would pay for this extra one year without any benefit, he asked.

Prof Haroon said in the coming decades science and technology would bring unexpected opportunities for improving our standard of living. He said to make good use of these opportunities science and technology education should be at the tip of the pyramid of the educational system.

Mr M. Rajab Ali in his paper on "Pre-primary and primary education" said due to mushroom growth of kindergartens without any government system to monitor or control their growth and activities many of them had turned into business concerns. At the same time due to lack of trained teachers and educational facilities the natural growth of talents of children studying in these institutions were being hampered, he added. —BSS