

National convention on education soon

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Dr. Abdul Majed Khan said on Friday that a national consensus was needed to solve the problems facing the education sector for none not even the Government alone could accomplish it.

The Minister reiterated the Government's plan to hold a national convention of educationists, educational administrators and those interested in education for the purpose soon.

Dr. Khan was addressing a seminar on UNESCO's role in universalisation of education, organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh, at Hotel Purbani as the chief guest.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin was the special guest at the inaugural function presided over by UNAB Chairman Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

Prof. Mohammad Moniruzzaman of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper of the seminar. The opening function was also addressed by Dr. Anisuzzaman of Chittagong University, Dr. Salahuddin Ahmed, President, UNAB, and Mr. Hisashi Uno, Director, United Nations Information Centre, Dhaka, and

Syed Ahmed Hossain, Secretary General of UNAB.

Dr. Abdul Majed Khan outlined the vastness of the problems obtained in the education sector and said that people of all shades of opinion, and all types of voluntary organisations would be invited to the proposed national convention.

He said that already one year had passed after the fixation of the target of turning into literates 50 per cent children of

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HSC status for commerce course

Existing commercial education course will be given higher secondary status and in pursuance of the course bachelor programme in business administration will be introduced soon. Education Minister Dr. Abdul Majed Khan said in Dhaka on Thursday reports BSS.

Dr. Khan said the management and administration of

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HSC

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the commercial educational institutions will also be brought under the Secondary and Higher Education Directorate. So long these institutions were under the control of Technical Education Board. The Minister was addressing a grand conference on commerce education at the Dhaka Government Commerce College. The conference organised by the students union of government commerce colleges in the country was attended by delegates from all 17 such colleges.

The Education Minister said the government had attached due importance to the expansion of commercial education course and the educational policy outline circulated by the government about 14 months back had prescribed for providing openings of higher education in commercial line.

The students leaders earlier urged the Minister for introducing bachelor programme in business administration and separating the administration of commercial colleges from the technical education board.

The demands of the students the Minister said in fact conformed the educational policy outline of the government. He added that the government was committed to make the education system open-ended throughout life by providing multiple entry points throughout the system.

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the primary school age group. The entire situation would have to be reviewed and an effective methodology worked out.

Referring to a point raised by one of the speakers about mass literacy drive of the previous government Dr. Khan said that undoubtedly there was a massive campaign for that but the drive lacked institutional and infrastructure support.

Referring to the demand for more allocation to the education sector, Dr. Khan reiterated his stand that this alone could not help the situation, if there was no effective steps for proper utilisation of the money and removal of wastage.

Again, he pointed out, education was losing cultural values because it could not bring anything to those who went to schools, nor does it create difference between those who are educated and those who are not. This was because the education that was being imparted had never been work related, he said.

Prof. Mohammad Moniruzzaman in his paper emphasised the need for long-term coordinated efforts for spread of education instead of the smaller projects that have been run so far. He emphasised that allocation to the education sector should be raised to five per cent of national income.

Dr. Anisuzzaman said that solution of problems in the education sector should be viewed in the total context of improve-

ment of the socio-economic conditions of the society. Mr. Hisashi Uno explained UNESCO activities with reference to those in Bangladesh.

Prof. Kabir Chowdhury in his presidential address said that the problems in the education sector could not be combated effectively in isolation, and should be viewed as part of an integrated effort to change the socio-economic conditions for the better. He emphasised that a democratic atmosphere was needed for a consensus in this regard to emerge by way of free flow of all shades of opinion.