

World standard higher studies a must : Sircar

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Monday said it was absolutely necessary now to go for international standard higher studies in all branches of science, technology and philosophy so that the graduates in these fields could contribute to national development, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a two-day seminar on higher education, trends and direction in Dhaka the Education Minister said emphasis should be given on standard of primary and secondary education to make the foundation for higher education stronger.

Welcoming the establishment of an independent university, Bangladesh (IUB) the

Minister said setting up of more such universities with private initiative would help remove the session jams in the state owned universities and create competition among the scholars.

Education, science, technology and cultural development to introduce the Academic programme and prospectus of IUB Trust (ESTCDT) organised the seminar. The inaugural session was chaired by the Chairman of the Trust Prof M Innas Ali.

It was also addressed by Chairman of the Editorial Board of Ittefaq and New Nation Barrister Mainul Hosein, President of IUB Dr A. Majeed Khan, Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof M

Shamsul Huq, Managing Director of Savar Textiles Towhid Samad and Educationist Dr Ghulam Rasul Miah.

Eminent educationist Prof A.F. Salahuddin Ahmed presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Established by ESTCDT the objective of IUB is to produce world class graduates within the local environment, with knowledge and skills to provide leadership in enterprise, public service and welfare.

Prof Innas Ali emphasised the need for meaningful higher education so that the graduates could contribute for themselves and the society and said the standard of higher edu-

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tion in Bangladesh could not be different from rest of the world.

He thanked the government for allowing setting up private universities and introduction of compulsory primary education and said madrasa and school education should be integrated into one system of education through improvement of the madrasa curricula and pull the national talents for development.

Thanking the members of the trust for their generous contributions Prof Ali appealed to the industrialists and philanthropists to join the trust and help implement its objectives.

Barrister Mainul Hosein said our higher education was an wastage of time, energy and money and the purpose of which should be to grow leaders

(not politicians) to build the nation. He said it was not a pleasant experiment for the rich parents to send their wards abroad for higher education but the circumstances here compell them to do so.

In his keynote paper Prof. Salahuddin Ahmed suggested a national consensus in favour of having a uniform system of education by bringing madrasa education in line with modern general education.

He said "I am not advocating abolition of maktabs and madrasa education and discontinuation of traditional learning," but to bring these institutions from medieval seclusion by transforming them into institutions of modern learning and help development of creative faculties of an individual.

He suggested for imparting universal moral teachings of all religions to the students through mother tongue, introduction of courses on theology and religious learning and establishment of department of comparative religion in every university.

The seminar will be followed by a public lecture series from January 6 to 11 in which eminent scholars from home and abroad will participate.