

NEAC to frame draft policy in three months

By A Staff Reporter

The National Education Advisory Council (NEAC) began its deliberation from Wednesday afternoon at the committee room of the Jatiya Sangsad Building with Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Chairman of the council presiding. The council will frame a draft education policy for the country, within three months.

The Government earlier formed the council to formulate a realistic, pro-people education policy which would meet the requirements of the time in the light of the problems obtaining in the education sector.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed in his opening speech outlined the problems, anomalies and disparities that had been obstructing a healthy educational environment in the country. He also underscored the need for a well thought out educational policy for the country which would make education universal, realistic and beneficial to the nation.

A number of the members of the council including Mr. A. Z. M. Obaidullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Prof. Shariful Islam, General Secretary of the Non-government College Teachers Association, Mr. Abdul Qader Sarkar, President of the Polytechnic Teachers Association and Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Primary School Teachers Association participated in the discussion.

The Education Minister said

that the present education system in the country bore the legacy of the system introduced during the colonial days and failed to meet the requirements of a free and sovereign country striving hard to be self-reliant. He said that education was the key to all round development and welfare of the nation and the means to produce trained manpower needed for nation building.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that the present education system was also disparate and not accessible to the vast majority of the population. He called for formulating an education policy which would remove the disparity in the system.

He also urged the council to come out with suggestions which would make education production oriented.

He urged the council to formulate a draft policy within the specified period of three months. public opinion would be elicited on the draft policy through national debate and organising workshops on it with representatives from the

Contd. on page 12 col. 7

Contd. from page 1
teachers, students and others connected with education before giving it a final shape, the Education Minister said.

In reply to a clarification sought by a member of the council the Education Minister said that the policy should be formulated commensurating the national wealth and requirements of the country.

Prof Shariful Islam who was the first to initiate the general discussion on the education policy underscored the need for stopping what he termed wastage of resources and luxury in education. He said that a total anarchic situation existed in the education arena of the country.

Mr. Abdul Qader Sarkar who spoke next stressed on making education realistic and pragmatic by putting more emphasis on vocational education and work related education.

Mr. Abul Kalam Azad pointed out the problems of primary education and the teachers of primary schools in his speech.

Mr. A. Z. M. Obaidullah Khan posed the question whether structural changes in the education system could be suggested by the council. He asked if the basic problems like disparity in education in different tiers of society and the evils of dual track in education which afforded good education facilities to one and hardly any facility to the other sections of the population could be removed without fundamental structural changes.

064