

09.09.1989

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81

World Literacy Day observed

'It's time to change Varsity Ordinance'

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam on Friday said the University Ordinance 1973 is largely responsible for the anarchic situation on the campus.

Addressing an education seminar on the occasion of the World Literacy Day the Minister said the university teachers have recast their service structure themselves in the name of autonomy and are getting promotions without research work or publication.

The Education Minister said in the present system the Vice-Chancellor has to move from door to door for support of the senate members for his appointment. On an average, four or five elections are held in a University every month and teachers are found busy in groupings and polls campaign.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the universities have no accountability. He said groupings among teachers have vitiated the campus atmosphere. Citing an example the Minister said the university authority failed to take measure against a teacher who put fictitious marks on answer scripts of an examinee because of groupings on the campus.

The Education Minister said now it is necessary to change the University Ordinance. "But no intellectual has made a courageous statement demanding this change", the Minister regretted.

SESSION JAM

Sheikh Shahidul Islam hoped that sessions jam would be removed from the educational institutions within three or four years. He said the process has already begun at the Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) and the Dhaka University is drafting a plan to remove sessions jam. He said all the universities will take up measures to eradicate the curse of sessions jam.

The Education Minister pointed to the dismal education scenario of the country saying that while the world rate of literacy is 72 per cent, at present the literacy rate in the country is far below it. He said investment in the education sector is poor because it does not give quick return and hence little progress has been achieved in this sector.

Pointing to dearth of eligible candidates for teaching posts, the Minister said the Public Service Commission has been able to recruit only 98 teachers for Government colleges as against

a demand for 600 through the Bangladesh Civil Service examination 1986.

Organised by Lions Club District 315B the seminar was held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Chaired by Lion District Governor Mr Sirajul Islam, the seminar heard the key-note paper from Education Secretary Hedayet Ahmed.

The Education Secretary in his paper said the Education Department will take up extensive measures to strengthen the population education programme under the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Different organizations observed the World Literacy Day through holding seminars and discussion meetings. The International Task Force on Literacy brought out a procession from Dhanmondi Maidan in the morning. The National Association of UNESCO in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) held a discussion meeting at the UNIC premises. Lions Club of Dhaka Central distributed educational equipment among the destitute students in observance of the World Literacy Day.