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Roundtable discussion on education Introduction of English from class one suggested

Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday suggested introduction of English course from class one instead of class three and a ban on all types of notes and suggestions selling in the market, reports BSS.

Expressing their concern over the standard of education in the country, the speakers said the standard has gone down in the past due to lack of proficiency in English language and increasing tendency to depend on notes and guide books rather than on texts.

They also proposed additional allocation for education in the national budget from next year and giving highest priority to primary and non-formal education to free the country from the curse of illiteracy quickly.

Bangladesh Press Institute (PIB) organised the discussion at its seminar room in the city where editors from different dailies and agencies were present.

Education Minister A S H K. Sadique was present on the occasion as the chief guest while State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed was the special guest.

Chairman of PIB Board of Directors Gaziul Huq presided the discussion.

Chairman of the Education Commission for formulating draft report on national education policy Prof Shamsul Huq, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Education Nurul Islam Nahid MP, eminent journalist A B M Musa, Cabinet Secretary M Ataul Huq, editor of the Daily 'Observer' Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of the Daily 'Manabjami' Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Education Secretary Quazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, BUP chairman Kazi

Kholiquzzaman, Prof Nazrul Islam and PIB Director General Sheikh Abdus Salam took part in the four-hour long discussion.

The Education Minister said the government is trying its best to announce a time-befitting national education policy after interaction and taking opinion of all quarters of society. "We have also sought cooperation from the opposition parties in this regard," he said.

Sadique said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina believes in the politics of commitment, "as a reflection of our election pledge we are going to present the national education policy before the nation as early as possible," he said adding that the draft report has already been prepared.

Criticising the standard of higher education in the country, the minister said allocation in this regard will be raised for the development of the higher

education. "Skill development is a must for poverty alleviation rapidly," he said. "The government is also giving special emphasis on science and technical education."

Prof Abu Sayeed underlined the need for a uniform education system in the country and said the proposed education policy should be imbued with the spirit of Liberation War.

ABM Musa said the government should look into the matter about how the meritorious students could be inspired to take up 'teaching profession'. He, however, said that 'genius' students should not merely be university teachers but they should also go for teaching at secondary and primary levels.

Motiur Rahman proposed setting up of a technical school at district level and said the schools should be provided with modern equipment including computers with Internet facilities.