

Badrudozza's call to identify campus trouble makers

Education Minister Prof. Badrudozza Chowdhury Saturday called for identifying the people responsible for misusing politics to create unrest and violence in the country's educational institutions, reports BSS.

He said the country got rid of alien rule and autocracy through politics and it was a pity that terrorism, violence and malpractices were now continuing on the campus in the name of politics.

Inaugurating a six-day national workshops on academic staff development in higher education, in Dhaka on Saturday morning Prof. Chowdhury said students, politicians and teachers have to think together to find a solution to the problem.

Jointly sponsored by the University Grants Commission and Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission, the inaugural session of the workshop was presided over by Prof. M. Shamsul Huq, Chairman, UGC and addressed by Mr. A.N.M. Eusuf, Education Secretary and Secretary General Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission. Prof. Mohammed Ali, Member, UGC and President Workshop Organising Committee, Dr. Mohammed Nurul Huq, adviser, (planning and Development) UGC and Member-Secretary Workshop Organising Committee gave the vote of thanks.

The Education Minister urged the people to come forward to help the students shape their future befitting the citizens of an independent, sovereign and self-respecting nation so that we were not identified as elements of shame and hatred in history.

Prof. B. Chowdhury said it was true that we were standing at the cross-roads of our education system. He said there had been tremendous erosion of moral values and despair and despondency had descended on all spheres of the national life including the country's education system as a result of endless corruption at the state level during the nine years of autocratic rule.

He said the task of the responsibility of bringing about an extensive and country-wide reconstruction and re-organisation had now fallen on the elected democratic government.

He said the need of the hour was to analyse the inherent cause of the crisis for overcoming the dangerous situation prevailing in the education

arena. He said all-out and concerted cooperation of the whole nation was indispensable. He said maintenance of congenial atmosphere at all level of education was also necessary in this regard.

Prof. Chowdhury pointed out that the present government called a conference of all the political organisations for the first time with a view to ensuring a healthy atmosphere in the education arena. He said a consensus was reached in the conference for adopting a five-point effective programme on campus violence, question paper leak-out, unfair means in examinations and session jam and unemployment.

He said the responsibility of the teachers, educationists, social leaders, guardians and the students community including the politicians was immense.

Prof. B Chowdhury said the traditional examination system had created a fear in the minds of the people. He stressed the need for a scientific and practical examination system in place of the age-old, unscientific and wasteful examination system.

He said the government was fully aware of the need for reorganising the problem-ridden education system on a priority basis as soon as possible. He said with this end in view, the highest allocation had been earmarked in the budget despite efforts being made to face successfully the unprecedented natural calamity.

He said the overall development of the country was never possible keeping the vast multitude of the population deprived of the light of education. He said the government was determined to start an extensive mass-literacy programme aimed at introducing employment-oriented adult and compulsory primary education.

He said the shortage of appropriate manpower for appointment as teachers in the higher educational institutions including the universities was very acute. He said the brilliant and progressive students, having highest university degrees, used to consider teaching a profession on a priority basis in the peaceful and excellent university environment.

The Education Minister said the teaching in the universities had now been downgraded due to socio-economic and political reasons. He said the youths, having highest degrees, have now scopes of taking up more lucrative jobs both at home and abroad.

Prof. B Chowdhury said the universities and the higher educational institutions could not remain idle in this unequal competition. He said the matter relating to appropriate pay structure and other fringe benefits for ensuring the recruitment of talented brilliant and meritorious teachers was worth considering.

He said a uniform code of conduct should be followed for appointment of all university teachers and their training and evaluation.

In this regard he stressed the need for widening the scope for the research programme of the universities. He said additional facilities of the teacher researchers should be ensured. He laid emphasis on the establishment of link with the industrial and commercial organisations to increase the fund necessary in this regard.

He said the present administration and management of the universities should be more dynamic for the smooth utilisation of our limited resources. He said the laws made by men could not be considered appropriate for ages to come.

He urged concerned authorities to give definite proposals for necessary reforms corrections commissions and modifications on the existing laws after examining them with open mind in the greater interests of the nation.

Prof. Chowdhury also emphasised making the powers of the University Grants Commission more pragmatic and practical for the overall development of the universities. He said recommendations from the UGC Chairman and permanent members in this regard would receive due consideration from the government.

The Education Minister hoped that the recommendation, to be adopted in the workshop in the light of the experiences of the participants, would contain directives towards resolving the problems prevailing in the field higher education.

After the inaugural function in the morning, two technical sessions were held in the afternoon.

In the first session, Prof Iqbal Mahmood of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology presented a paper on the recruitment, selection and appointment of teachers in higher education in Bangladesh. Dr. M N Huq advisor (Planning and Development), University Grants Commission read a paper on service, orientation and in-service education of the faculty members in higher education in Bangladesh in the second session.

The Chairman of the UGC Prof M. Shamsul Huq and UGC Member Prof. Mosharraf Hossain respectively presided over the two sessions where Dr. M.G. Mostafa, Director of Research and Publication UGC, and Ms. Halima Khatun of the Dhaka University were the main discussants.

Fifteen persons including Prof M.A. Bari took part in the discussion on the basis of the papers presented and discussions held on them were adopted later.