

Violence to be stamped out from campuses

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Begum Zia said a nation deprived of education cannot enjoy the fruits of independence properly. She said the light of education will have to be reached to the door-step of the rural masses. Democratisation of education is necessary for this purpose, she opined and said that the aim of her government was to put an end to the monopoly of a handful of people on education and make it universal.

The Prime Minister said she does not favour raising the number of educated unemployed people in the country. "Like appropriate technology, we will have to think of appropriate education", the Prime Minister said and suggested that the education methods, curriculum and syllabi should be determined keeping in view the socio-economic realities of the country.

The Prime Minister listed the steps already taken by her gov-

ernment to remove problems of session jam and adoption of unfair means in examinations. She said maximum age limit for entry into government jobs has been raised to 30 years and committees have been formed to suggest measures to remove those problems.

Begum Zia regretted that Section 144 has to be imposed in and around examination centres to prevent copying and other unfair activities. She said an end to such a situation is urgently needed. "We will have to find out why students go for copying and take appropriate measures to stop it," she added. Begum Zia said both teachers and guardians will have to take this responsibility.

EDUCATION MINISTER

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury said national progress cannot be achieved without development of education. He said myriad of problems in the education sector cannot be solved overnight. He, how-

ever, called for concerted efforts by politicians, professionals, students and guardians to solve the problems.

The Education Minister said the government has taken a firm step to eradicate illiteracy introducing mass literacy programme.

STATE MINISTER

Principal Yunus Khan said late President Ziaur Rahman initiated the mass literacy programme because he realised that progress could not be achieved without it.

He regretted that students nowadays carry arms instead of pens. He said the students who made great sacrifice in the past to resist corruption have themselves become corrupt now. The Minister said even there are students who bring out procession demanding right to copying in examinations.

Principal Khan said anarchic situation in the past nine years pushed the youths towards disappointment. He said teachers are

sidetracking their responsibilities on different pretexts. He called upon the teachers to boldly stand against injustice.

The Education Secretary said that an education policy was urgently needed for the country, he said present government has the political will to spread education among the masses. He said that a draft mass literacy programme has been formulated by the ministry. It will now be placed before the cabinet for consideration.

He said high rate of dropout—65-70 per cent—is the main problem of primary education. He said about eight crore people of the country are illiterate.

KEYNOTE PAPER

Prof. M. Shamsul Haq in his keynote paper presented at the Seminar on "Education and Democracy" said the political parties should not have any student organs. Rather alliances of students were necessary. He said stu-

dents, when united, can carry out glorious tasks.

He said if the political parties do not like to dissolve their student wings they can unitedly formulate a policy for the student organisations. That policy should contain measures against violence-mongers and inattentive students.

Prof. Haq said the 1973 University Act has given the university teachers opportunity to exercise democratic rights. But its application in some respects has been questioned. He said grouping among teachers is surpassing limits. Even students are being involved in it.

Prof. Haq, a former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, said nothing is final in politics. Similarly the 1973 University Act should not be considered unchangeable. He said the act can be amended through discussion with teachers. There may not be the need to annual or fundamentally change it, he said.

Prof. Jahanara Begum, MP, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Begum Khurshida Khan, Prof. Abdul Bari, Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, Rashida Khatun MP, Jasimuddin Ahmed, Syed Shamse Ara Hossain and A. K.M. Shahidullah took part in the discussion on the paper.

In the afternoon an open discussion on education was held with Dr. Abdullah-al-Muti Sharfuddin in the chair. Hafeza Asma Khatun MP, Gazi Abdus Salam, Shahidullah, Prof. Janab Ali, Khandker Bazlul Haq, Abul Hossain, Dr. Mozammel Haq, M.A. Main, Prof. Shafiqul Islam and Ruhul Quddus Kajal took part in the discussion.

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