



(3)

JS discussion on primary education

The opposition members in the Jatiya Sangsad pleaded for providing free and compulsory primary education to the children of the country when two resolutions were moved on the private members' day Thursday, reports BSS.

As the Education Minister, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, made a statement, in reply to the lively discussions by five opposition members, detailing the government's achievement and future programme for the expansion of educational facilities to the masses and removal of illiteracy, the independent member, Mia Abbasuddin, withdrew his resolution. But the other independent member Mr. Nurul Islam Moni, told the House that he would not withdraw his resolution. His resolution was, however, rejected by the house.

The House witnessed a walk out by some opposition members led by Leader of Opposition Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rob, centering on the Deputy Speaker's decision to put the resolution of Mr. Moni to vote.

Mr. Rob argued that if the resolution of Mr. Moni on compulsory education of children from ages six to ten years from 1990 was put to vote, it would tantamount to violation of the constitution. But his arguments were opposed by Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, Irrigation Minister Mahbubur Rahman and the Education Minister.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, who is a former Education Minister told the House that if the resolution was accepted, it would be in violation of the constitution which commits to extend free and compulsory education to "all children."

The discussion on the resolutions were participated by Mr. A.S.M. Abdur Rob, Mr. Ataur Rahman (COP) Mr. Nur Alam Ziku (COP), Mr. Mia Abbas uddin (Ind) Mr. Nurul Islam Moni (Ind) and Mr. Abdul Hamid Talukder (COP).

The Deputy Speaker Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed adjourned the house at 1.45 pm till 10 am on May 28 (Sunday).