

50th Education Day marked

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50 YEARS of Education Day was observed on Monday with calls for ensuring a congenial academic atmosphere on campuses, protecting students' rights and holding elections to the central students' unions.

Students and teachers marked the day by stressing the need for a secular, scientifically-based education system, ensuring a better quality of teacher and employee, instead of further commercialisation.

Students' organisations gathered at Shikkha Adhikar Chattar in front of Shikkha Bhaban in the capital to place wreaths for martyrs of the 1962 education movement.

Organisations held discussions, rallies, submitted a memorandum to the education ministry and held a photo exhibition at Dhaka University.

National Shikkhak-Karmachari Front organised a seminar at the National Press Club titled 'implementation of the national education policy 2010 in the light of Education Day: desired priorities and expected role of students, teachers and guardians.'

Addressing the programme, education minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the national education policy would be implemented without delay.

He said the government had improved technology in the education sector and measures were taken to improve the quality of teachers and institutions.

Bangladesh Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad rallied in front of the Press Club to push for quality education and benefits and facilities for teachers and employees.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union leaders

and activists held a rally at Aparajeya Bangla with a 13-point charter of demands, including the right to education for all.

Addressing the rally were DU economics professor MM Akash, mass communication and journalism teacher Kaberi Gayen and Communist Party of Bangladesh presidium member Haider Akbar Khan Rono.

Samajtantirk Chhatra Front leaders also held a rally and day-long photo exhibition at DUCSU cafeteria.

Bangladesh Students Federation leaders staged a demonstration in front of the central library condemning the autocracy of the ruling parties-backed students' organisations at universities.

They termed the education policy as 'communal' and 'discriminating'.

Chhatra League (Jasad) staged a demonstration in front of the arts faculty building demanding the end to the commercialisation of education and ensuring democratic rights and practices on campuses.

The Progressive Students Alliance held a rally in front of the arts faculty building.

Ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League held a discussion meeting at TSC on 'Education Policy 2010: Achievements and Expectation'.

On the day in 1962, Mustafa, Wajidullah and Babul died and several others were injured when police fired at students rallying in Dhaka demanding that the report of the Sharif Commission, set up in December 1958, should be scrapped.

The police shooting triggered a violent student movement across the country.