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We need persons with total edn: President

Restriction on hiring foreign teachers may go

Staff Correspondent

The Government may lift restrictions on hiring foreign teachers to make easier for the country's private universities to attain academic excellence like the world-class educational institutions.

The indication for employing the intellectuals from abroad in education and research came at a seminar on Tuesday from Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk who reverberated with regret that private universities in Bangladesh are still "glorified training centres", where the meritorious but poor students have hardly any scope to study.

Emphasising the need for quality education in the country, President and Chancellor of most of the universities Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury lamented that the politicians, executives and businessmen all were sending their children to universities abroad and the best students seeking escape via English medium schools.

"With the present state of social anarchy, we need persons with 'total' education to lift the society out of this grim darkness surrounding us," he said inaugurating the seminar on "Higher Education in Bangladesh: Role of Private Universities" at a city hotel.

North South University (NSU), American International University

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Restriction

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– Bangladesh (AIUB), Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) and American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) organised the seminar

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk said in his speech. He also assured that the government would help the private universities in having acquisition of land for building their own campuses.

The Minister felt that initially there should be a role of government and in course of time the private universities themselves should evolve their own code and ethics. "The advent of private universities is no condemnation to the public universities anyway," he maintained.

In Bangladesh, there are 29 private universities at present against 13 public universities. Private universities accommodate 8,000 of the admission seekers out of about 30,000 students (the rest study in public universities) annually. Almost 80 per cent of about 200,000 students who passed HSC seek tertiary education, the rate of which is only 6, one of the lowest in the world.

Question of whether there is necessity of more private universities came up for discussion as 60,000 to 80,000 students study abroad including India.

Presided over by AmCham president Aftab ul Islam, the business session was addressed, among others, by Prof Nurul Islam and Prof Rahim Baksha of Viquarunnisa University.