



Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman giving his inaugural speech at the annual conference of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association in Dacca on Saturday. —Photo FID

Govt to take over schools, colleges in phases : PM

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said on Saturday that thorough reforms would be brought about in the country's education system to feed the needs of time.

The Prime Minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of three-day annual conference of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association at Dacca College auditorium.

Presided over by Mr. Khaliur Rahman, President of the association the conference was addressed among others by Home Minister Lt. Col. (retd) Mustafizur Rahman, Food Minister Mr. Abdul Momen Khan, Works Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman and Mr. Harace Perara of World Congress of Teaching Profession.

Shah Azizur Rahman who is also in charge of Ministry of Education said that a dynamic

and efficient planning structure and mechanism for providing adequate facilities to primary education would be introduced in the country.

He criticised setting up fake schools and colleges by some unscrupulous elements over the last few years.

FREE EDUCATION

The Prime Minister reiterated that the Government planned to create adequate infrastructure for free universal education at primary level, liberalisation of education upto secondary stage and to make higher education selective. He also said that the Government would take over all schools and colleges phase by phase.

He also stressed the need for increasing the literacy rate for speedy national development. In this connection he said that 92 per cent of people in Sri Lanka and 90 per cent

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Schools, colleges

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in Japan were literate.

He defended the Government decision to set up the proposed Islamic University in Khulna Division saying that justice demanded a university in this division because there was no big educational institution in that area. He termed that the criticism against the Government decision as "motivated".

He said that great universities of the world were situated mostly outside the capital. Referring to the demand of establishing the proposed Islamic University at Dacca he said that this was not justified from the consideration of undisturbed pursuit of knowledge.

He further said that in India and Sri Lanka also the universities were located away from the capital.

UNIVERSITY LAWS

The Prime Minister said that the university laws would be made uniform and added that a ministerial council committee was working on it. He said that the Kucrat-e-Khuda Commission report relating to curricula upto class five had already been implemented and added that implementation of the remaining part of the report was underway.

UNIFORM PAY

Referring to a demand for introduction of uniform pay scales for college teachers throughout the country the Prime Minister said that principle of social justice demanded uniform pay scales for all col-

lege teachers whether he was serving in a government college or in a private college. He mentioned that the government had already allocated Taka 90 crore annually for the non-government schools and colleges at teachers' benefit.

Home Minister Lt. Col. (retd) Mustafizur Rahman in his speech emphasised the need for spreading literacy in the country. He said that no nation could march forward by keeping the majority of its population away from the benefit of education and literacy.

He also reminded the teachers of their responsibilities towards the nation. He urged them to discharge their responsibilities properly for building up the future leadership in the country.

Works Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman said that the Government would take steps to meet the demand for facilities to the teachers in phases.

He also said that the pay anomalies between the teachers of different institutions should be solved.

Food Minister Mr. Abdul Momen assured the teachers that existing rationing facilities for the teachers would be further improved.

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