

Quick expansion of education underscored

Information Minister Syed Naimuddin Hashim on Saturday cautioned that all development programmes national efforts and dreams to save 68,000 villages would be futile if we fail to ensure speedy expansion of education in the country reports BSS.

He was speaking at the 20th guardians day and annual prize distribution ceremony of the Residential Model School and College in Dhaka on Saturday morning.

The Information Minister who witnessed a march-past and a P.T. display by the students regretted that despite too much of propaganda in the last 30 years the history of eradication of illiteracy was discouraging in the absence of dedication, definite goal and sincere efforts. He said during the last three decades the literacy rate had only increased from 20 per cent to 22 per cent. As a result the number of illiterates which was three crore out of population of four and a half crore 30 years ago had now rose to seven crore out of nine crore population he added.

The function rounded off with a cultural programme was also addressed by Principal of the College Mr. Lutful Haider Chowdhury.

A large number of parents and guests attended the colourful function participated by the students.

Syed Naimuddin pointed out that the student community was not isolated from the existing socio-economic condition of the country. Similarly arrangement for their education and training was not also irrelevant he added.

The Minister said that the number of admission of students in primary schools in 1981 was 12 per cent less compared to the number in 1978. He pointed out that of the total amount of money spent by government despite resource constraints on primary education only 20 per cent was actually utilised for the purpose.

The rest 80 per cent he said is wasted.

Referring to the deplorable condition of the present education system the Information

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Information Minister Syed Naimuddin Hashim speaking at a gathering on the occasion of Parents Day and Prize Distribution Ceremony of Residential Model School and College in Dhaka on Saturday.

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Minister said that no educational institution could survive for long in such an aimless system. He stressed the need for a total solution of the problem and made a fervent call to the students teachers guardians social workers and politicians to make an united effort with the government in overcoming the situation.

Mr. Hashim said that "one of the 18-point programmes announced by the Chief Martial Law Administrator was on the improvement of education system and ensuring future security of the students. As a result he pointed out that the Government had undertaken a crash programme to raise the rate of literacy from 22 to 50 per cent by 1987. He disclosed that Taka 59 crore would be spent this year to rehabilitate the education with the objective of laying strong foundation for our future education system.

Earlier Principal Mr. Lutful Haider Chowdhury in his welcome address gave a detail account of the activities and performances of Residential Model School and College during the past one year. He said that the number of students of the institution set up in 1960 had increased from 380 at inception of 1,020 at present.

The Vice-Principal of the College Shah Mohammad Zakarul Huq and Mr. Minir Ahmed Kadri a student also spoke on the occasion.

The march-past by the students earlier was led by College Captain Nasiruddin Ahmed.