

## Develop academic base at per international standard

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury on Sunday said that our younger generation should learn and equip themselves properly to face the challenges of the future, reports BSS.

"We should do our best to develop our educational institutions for betterment of future generation", Chowdhury told a seminar in Dhaka at the North South University (NSU) on "University Administration and Faculty Development".

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) jointly sponsored the five-day long seminar. This is the first seminar on this subject undertaken in the country, the organisers said.

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Chairman CDRB, Dr Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi, Vice President (Academic Affairs) of NSU, Dr Terrell Jones, Acting Provost, Lock Haven University, USA and John Kincannon, Director (Public Affairs), United States Information Service (USIS) also spoke at the inaugural session.

The State Minister said the government will play supportive role to modernise education system in the country to cope with the needs of the hour.

Mr Chowdhury said in today's world countries are closely linked with each other. Therefore, he said the younger generation should know each other through exchange of knowledge and cultural activities.

The State Minister for Foreign Affairs said the private universities should develop their academic base at per international standard to meet the demand of present day world. This could be attained by engaging noted scholars of home and abroad in teaching faculty, he opined. Mr Chowdhury further said we should also develop both private and public universities to help discourage large scale migration of

young people abroad for higher studies.

Dr Hafiz Siddiqi of NSU said "Our effort should be to improve quality" while offering higher education. Simultaneously we should also update the curricula to meet the challenges, he said.

Dr Jones said prime aim of education was to create good leaders who would work as agents of social change. The young people who have the vision to change the world should be reared through proper education, he opined.

NSU one of the first institutions of higher learning in the private sector, now enroll around 1400 students and has a teaching staff of 54.

Professors and deans of faculties of both private and public universities are attending the seminar.