

Introduce aptitude tests for students for quality edn

Says Dr Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regulatory Reforms Commission Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan yesterday called for introduction of aptitude tests such as Graduate Record Examination (GRE) at the university level and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) at the SSC level in order to improve the quality of education.

"The quality of entire education system from primary to university level is very poor. At the tertiary education level, the quality of education in private universities is the worst. We should introduce GRE in public and private universi-

education. Besides, the government should introduce SAT at SSC level," he said at a roundtable as the chief guest.

He also said Bangladeshi students get very little time to interact with their teachers because of too many holidays in the educational institutions and absence of teachers during working hours.

"A student needs to attend classes totalling a minimum of 860 hours in a year, but our children do not get such facilities. Around 19 percent teachers remain absent during working hours. Apart from official holidays, our children enjoy holidays during month-long SSC

The daily Shamokal and BSB-Cambrian College jointly organised the roundtable on 'National education policy: Our education system' at Grand Azad Hotel in the city.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, also a former adviser to the caretaker government, said regional disparities, especially urban-rural gap, have emerged due to the existing centralised education system.

He also said the quality of technical education in the country is also very poor and that it is high time to recast the technical education system to produce technically skilled people.

former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, said discrimination between government and non-government schools will have to be eliminated for the greater interest of the nation.

Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain called for an increase in the budget for general education.

Prof Ajoy Roy suggested introducing a science-based uni-track education system for all.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Salma Akhtar, Prof Quazi Farruque Ahmed and Dr Karunamay