

'Develop proper edn system to improve quality'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of developing a proper education system, the country has been pursuing an education system inherited from colonial period, leading to a decline in the quality of education, eminent educationist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said yesterday.

"It is regrettable that we could not develop a education system suitable for us. Rather, we are trying to adopt an education system inherited from previous times, forming wrong conception of the role of education," he said while presiding

over the first session of a daylong meeting on Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP).

The meeting titled 'An experts and practitioners' meeting to review the (in)coherence between macro-plan and micro realities: PEDP-II' was held at LGED Bhaban at Agargaon in the city.

Advancing Public Interest Trust (APIT), Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE), Bottala Foundation, Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST), Esho Desh Gari (EDG), Noakhali Rural Development Society

(NRDS), Sabalambay Unnayan Samity (SUS), Solidarity, Uttar, Wave Foundation and Zabbaran Kalyan Samity (ZKS) jointly organised the meeting.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the students now do not study some important subjects such as history, philosophy and economics. Introduction of less important subjects in the higher education is responsible for the decline in the quality of education, he added.

Teachers in the past were self-educated, but now the trend has changed, he said, adding that today's teachers have lost interest in

learning, resulting in a serious crisis in education sector.

Prof Muzaffer said that a teacher can change the life of students by inculcating perseverance, dedication and knowledge in them. "Students can obtain the concept of beautiful life and find the right way from the company of teachers."

Former lawmaker GM Kader said many projects could not be successful due to lack of proper evaluation. "Even we cannot assess what sector and what projects should receive funds."

The representatives of the NGOs presented five keynote papers at the meeting.



President of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury greets Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman when he arrives at an Iftar party at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

\$122m WB support to improve water resources management

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank will provide \$102.26 million through its soft-lending window International Development Association (IDA) to support Bangladesh's efforts towards improving national water resources management.

An agreement on the credit was signed between the government and the IDA in this regard yesterday.

The credit from the World Bank's concessionary arm has 40 years to maturity with a 10-year grace period; and it carries a service charge of 0.75 percent.

In addition to the IDA financing, the Government of the Netherlands is co-financing US\$ 20 million as grant, which will be

administered by the World Bank. The Netherlands has been strongly engaged in the water sector in Bangladesh since 1975.

The government's support, including the beneficiary contribution, is about \$14.44 million.

Secretary of Economic Relations Division M Aminul Islam Bhuiyan and World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu signed the deal on behalf of the Bangladesh government and the World Bank respectively at the Economic Relations Division at Agargaon.

An estimated 2 million households will benefit from the seven-year 'Water Management Improvement Project', designed to improve water management

involving local communities in planning, design, operations and management.

"Crop losses are expected to be reduced during the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods and improved drainage and flood control and expansion of irrigation are likely to increase agricultural production," says a statement on the agreement.

In addition to rehabilitating and improving 102 existing flood control, drainage, and irrigation schemes through Water Management Organisations (WMOs), the project will also support measures to improve performance of another 98 existing schemes that do not require major rehabilitation.

Interrogators said they will also try to extract information from them about their accomplices in Bangladesh who collected tolls and sent the money to them.

Taj and Selim were arrested in Kolkata in March while Ibrahim in August on charges of illegal entry into India and were sent to jail. The Kolkata police planned to deport them to Bangladesh after their jail terms, as there is no extradition treaty between the two nations. They were handed over to Bangladesh following a request from the Bangladeshi authorities.

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The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police also started grilling the listed criminals yesterday about how they went to India and carried out their activities from the hideouts there.

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