

Make public draft edn policy report

Govt urged to get feedback from all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educationists, academicians and teachers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to make the draft report on National Education Policy 2009 public to have opinions of mass people on it before its implementation.

Hailing the government for formulating an education policy within eight months of its tenure, they said it is a huge job and the government has to prioritise its tasks beginning with small steps to implement the policy.

The speakers, however, expressed their frustration over the standard of education and stressed the need for developing the level of competency of teachers and students.

They said more budgetary allocation in the education sector, more facilities for teachers and hike in their salaries are a must to ensure quality education.

Daily Samakal organised the discussion titled 'Proposed education policy: Whither the national progress' at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Attending the discussion as the chief guest Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said they would finalise the policy on the basis of opinions and suggestions of the people in general.

"We will seek opinion and suggestion from all to give the policy a proper shape," he said, adding, "It would be a national policy."

He also said the govern-

ment would start implementation of the new national education policy from December after completing all the necessary procedures.

Emphasising the need for increasing the budgetary allocation, he said the government had already started working to provide more financial support for teachers.

Educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said the country lacks quality teachers and it entails a huge investment.

"Why should a good student come to teaching profession if it is inferior in terms of salary and benefits," he questioned.

Prof Zillur stressed the need for initiating accreditation system in the university level so that students can know about the standard of the university.

Rashed Khan Menon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, said the standing committee would seek opinions from all so ideas of mass people could be reflected in the policy.

He said introducing uniform curricula in the primary level is a good start and it would be a strong base for higher education.

Decentralisation of education is a must, he said, adding, "We need to lay more emphasis on technical and moral education to improve our competence level."

Prof Nazrul Islam, chairman of University Grants Commission, said it is not possible to ensure quality education in the universi-

ties unless they get quality students. "For that, quality student in schools and colleges is the precondition."

There will be no compromise with the standard of education, he said adding, "We need quality teachers in both the public and private universities."

He suggested appointment of teachers on the basis of merit, not political affiliation.

Moderated by Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar, the discussion was also addressed by Mahbubul Alam, editor of the Independent, Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, Dr Muhammad Ibrahim and Dr Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University, Dr Manjur Morshed, Principal Shah Alam, member of parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, Principal Kazi Faruque Ahmed, treasurer of National University, Kabery Gayen, assistant professor of DU, Fahima Khatun, chairman of Dhaka Education Board, Prof Mohammad Yusuf, chairman of Madrasa Education Board, Prof Noman-ur-Rashid, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Prof Nitai Chandra Sutradhar, DG of Directorate of Technical Education, Father Benjamin Costa (CSE), principal of Notre Dame College and Rokeya Akhtar, acting principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School.

Dhaka, Delhi to review

FROM PAGE 16
Moni and Pranab Mukherjee was held in Dhaka on February 9 this year.

Trade, investment, sharing waters of the common rivers, including the Teesta, Tipaimukh dam, border demarcation, connectivity and security issues, may figure prominently during the Dipu-Krishna talks.

Political and diplomatic observers say a congenial ambience has been in place with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League and Dr Manmohan Singh's Congress in power in Dhaka and New Delhi to settle the longstanding issues through constructive negotiations.

On bilateral trade, Dhaka has been pressing for a long to remove para and non-tariff barriers to Bangladeshi exports in a bid to reduce the yawning trade gap that accounts for over \$2,566 million.

Despite repeated appeals and assurances at political level, New Delhi has not initiated any substantial step to help reduce the trade imbalance over the years. If India removes the barriers, Bangladesh could step up its export to the landlocked seven northeastern states and close

the trade imbalance.

India is seeking more land-route connectivity through Bangladesh to boost trading in its seven northeastern states.

On the issue of sharing of waters of the common rivers, there has not been any progress in distribution of waters of the seven rivers, including the Teesta. The matter is now whirling in different technical committees.

A new issue of India's proposed dam at Tipamukh on the common river Barak tops the agenda though Delhi assured Dhaka that they would not do "anything that might harm Bangladesh's interest."

Already there have been loud protests in Dhaka against the dam on apprehension that it would dry up Rivers Surma and Kushiara and the Meghna basin, and severely affect the ecology.

Another irksome issue is demarcation of a 6.2 km stretch of common border that causes frequent skirmishes between the two border guards.

Bangladesh has been pressing for long to implement the 1974 Mujib-Indira border agreement. Although Bangladesh ratified the agreement in 1974, India has not

done it on various pretexts, the sources pointed out.

A few years ago the Indian side proposed a package formula on demarcation of 6.2 km borders instead of implementing the Mujib-Indira agreement. Bangladesh, however, did not respond to the proposal, rather has been asking for implementing the agreement.

On the shooting down of Bangladeshi civilians along the border, Bangladesh has repeatedly asked the Indian authorities to stop the killing of innocent civilians and follow the recognised rules in case of any trespass from the Bangladesh side. But, the Indian border guards continue shooting down Bangladeshi farmers, causing persistent tension along the border, the observers observed about this irritant.

On security issue, both Bangladesh and India agree to cooperate with each other through exchange information to combat terrorism. Dhaka repeatedly assured Delhi of not allowing any insurgent or terrorist group to use its territory.

Bangladesh expressed concern at the smuggling of drugs from across the border.

The reform man

FROM PAGE 1
was the vice-president of Dhaka Muslim Hall for which he also had to land in jail.

He joined Ziaur Rahman's Jatiyabadi Gonotantrik Dal, which was later transformed into BNP. From then on Saifur decisively worked for the party, planning its political and economic visions. His quick mind for figures made him the natural candidate for the post of finance minister spanning over a few decades.

Known as a great reformist, Saifur had the unique record of placing 12 annual national budgets since independence of Bangladesh in 1971. He had initiated a great many economic policy reforms that still pay off dividends. The best-known steps he had taken were the introduction of value added tax (VAT) and floating the exchange rate—both actions needed a lot of courage and attracted criticism. But then his wisdom paid off.

Saifur would be remembered for a few other things also. He was always unfazed in his mission for trade liberalisation, downsizing the state-owned enterprises and balancing the budget. Looking back, one would still wonder how delicately he handled the case of shutting down the white elephant Adamjee Jute Mills. One would think he was a donor-man after all.

But that was the whole of Saifur Rahman. He had actually taken tremendous pressures of the IMF and the World Bank on many counts and did not go for wanton liberalisation and he had been openly critical of the donor prescriptions. For his bold decisions, the economy did not slip into deep crisis by following IMF diktats blindly.

In retrospect, it could be said that Saifur was pragmatic in his approach and did not dither to accept mistakes. It was he who had first appeared in a conference soon after his party's debacle in the 1996 elections that the Awami League won and very candidly accepted the fact that the BNP lost the race because of its own mistakes. Then he offered his party's hand in development efforts. Such a gesture in our political standards was rare indeed.

But then the sunset time for Saifur also approached when young Turks of the BNP led by Tarique Rahman had held a sway over the party and the government since 2001. He was further weakened by the activities of some of his family members.

Finally, he was mired in controversy when he was made acting chairperson of the BNP at

a controversial meeting of the BNP standing committee in the name of reforming the party during the last caretaker government's tenure while BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was behind bars.

But Saifur was always a pragmatic person. He retired from politics after he could not make it to the parliament in the election. He was spending his last days before yesterday's fatal accident at home with a weak health.

101 more get

FROM PAGE 16
Soon to decide whether the 101 posts of assistant judges will be taken from 448 candidates selected in the written test.

When on Tuesday The Daily Star tried to contact secretary to the BJS Farid Ahmed Shibly, one of his staff said the secretary was not interested to talk to the media.

Sources said only at the entry level judicial officials are appointed to the post of assistant judges while the other tiers are filled through promotion and added that about 400 posts of the lower court judges have remained vacant for more than seven years affecting people seeking justice across the country.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed has recently told The Daily Star that new judges will be recruited through the BJS.

The government is trying to find out the reasons behind vacancies in the lower judiciary, he said, adding that they are very sincere about ensuring it so that litigants do not face any trouble getting justice, he said.

The process of appointments of 207 new judges began in November in 2008 when the number of vacant posts of assistant judges was the same, an official concerned said.

Sources said the judicial posts are lying vacant because of several reasons, including non-recruitment of judges during the BNP-led government, and separation of the magistracy.

The executive magistrates earlier discharging judicial functions were absorbed in the administrative posts after the separation of the magistracy through the separation of judiciary from the executive, sources added.

Besides, some of the judges either left the jobs or have been transferred to other services on deputation creating vacancies in the judiciary.

In May last year, the army backed caretaker government appointed 394 assistant judges to courts across the country following separation of the judiciary.

Indian giants seek

FROM PAGE 16

Ready to strike a deal with any Bangladeshi fibre optic operator to provide telecom services to India's geographically disadvantaged states: Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

The two companies want to build a fibre optic link to Assam from Meherpur through Kolkata-Meherpur-Dhaka-Jafong route with an option of an alternative route through Kolkata-Meherpur-Dhaka-Cornilla-Agartala.

They are also willing to bring Myanmar under their network, subject to approval of the Southeast Asian nation.

The seven northeastern states now get telecom services through VSAT (very small aperture terminal) at a high price.

Bangladesh is yet to decide on the proposal. The BTRC however views that the proposed network would serve as

an alternative to Bangladesh's lone submarine cable.

"The link if developed by a local company between India's mainland and seven sister states might work as an alternative network for us in case of disruptions to our lone submarine cable line," said a high official with BTRC.

"The Indian companies have already brought Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan under their submarine cable network. If the proposal is implemented, we shall get connected with these countries and be benefited financially," said the official.

Internet service providers have welcomed the initiative and said there is no reason to hesitate over the proposal if the Indian companies give Bangladesh some customary benefits.

"If Bangladesh can get connected with the US, there should be no problem with

seven sister states," said Akhtaruzzaman Manju, president of Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh.

The proposed link might work as redundant submarine cable network and Bangladesh can also earn revenues, he added.

Reliance Communications having a reliable, high-capacity, integrated and convergent digital network began laying 60,000 route kilometres of a pan-India fibre optic backbone in December 2002.

The businesses at Bharti Airtel have been structured into three individual strategic business units - mobile services, Airtel telemedia services and enterprise services.

Airtel Telemedia offers broadband and telephone services in 95 cities and has recently launched direct-to-home service Airtel digital TV.



Chittagong Port Authority

Corrigendum


Invitation for Tender No.: DT/ICD/84-6 (Loose) Dated: 31-08-2009
Subject: Appointment of a contractor(s) for supply & operation of Container Handling Equipment at ICD Kamalapur, Dhaka on temporary basis.
 Ref: Memo No-DT/ICD/84-6 (Loose) dt: 11/08/09
 The following amendment on the above tender has been made:

IFT Serial No.	Item	Description
17	Tender last selling date	29-9-2009 instead of 01-09-2009
18	Tender closing date and time	30-9-09 at 11-00am instead of 02-09-09.
19	Tender opening date and time	30-9-09 at 11-30am instead of 02-09-09.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	CPA Board Room, Bandar Bhaban at 11-30am on 15-09-09.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
 This corrigendum will be the integral part of the tender documents.

Director (Traffic)
Chittagong Port Authority

GD-4079



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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: ৪৮ তারিখ: ৩০-৮-০৯

ক্র.সং.	বিবরণ
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম/পত্রে
৩.	কাজের বিবরণ
৪.	কাজের ধরণ
৫.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
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১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১১.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা
১২.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য
১৩.	অন্যবিবরণ
১৪.	কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
১৫.	শর্তাবলী/বিশেষ নির্দেশনা

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