PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Developing skilled manpower in Upazilas is a great contribution to our economy. PHOTO COURTESY: ICT DIVISION, MOPTIT

catch, we were told to bring our own laptop for the training. I think it has driven away many potential students to get the training because laptops quite a costly commodity even today."

The ministry has appointed several companies to provide the training. One of the companies is Multimedia Content and Communication (MCC) who has provided 50 such training programmes. Ashraf Abir, the CEO of the MCC, says, "The programme is actually for those who will be able to develop mobile phone apps using Java programming language. Most of our trainees are students of computer science and as we have to arrange training in different parts of the country, we have made such requirements."

The government is not only preparing human resources to achieve digital Bangladesh. Infrastructural development is also on the way. Hi-tech park in Jessore and Kaliakoir of Gazipur are being built. Khan says, "We always encourage the establishment of new software and hardware industries in the country. The goal of establishing these hi-tech parks is to develop ICT-based industries. If anyone wants to establish industries we will provide all sorts of training and capacity-building facilities there. Thus, we are encouraging entrepreneurship in the ICT sector and we also want to attract foreign investment in Bangladesh."

Bangladesh's ICT sector is a glimmering example of what can be achieved if government's goodwill and a skilled workforce work together. Rapid development in the ICT sector also reflects a rapid growth of skilled manpower which ultimately accelerates the economic growth. Despite many challenges such as political instability, financial crisis and power shortages, many large and ambitious projects are going on to achieve digital Bangladesh. If the government functions at the current pace, we can hope that within a few years the ICT sector will be the largest revenue earner for Bangladesh. ■