

Make technical edn compulsory at all levels

Urges closing ceremony of int'l conference in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day international conference on technical education and skills ended yesterday through adaptation of Dhaka Declaration that focused on establishing a link between Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and industries.

The declaration called for developing awareness to popularise TVET and updating curricula of technical education for current and future employment at home and abroad.

It also underscored the need for creating a common platform (national and international) for sharing knowledge and experience for sustainable expansion of technical education in the country.

Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) and Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), Manila, in association with the Ministry of Education of Bangladesh, organised the conference titled "Skills for the future world of work and TVET for global competitiveness" at IDEB in the capital.

Researchers, practitioners, educationists, entrepreneurs, industrialists and policymakers from 23 countries attended the conference that hosted 16 seminars. The closing ceremony was held at a city hotel.

The speakers on the concluding day suggested making technical education compulsory at every level of education system and investing more in vocational training and technical education. Prof Dr hc Schroder Thomas, chair of International Cooperation in Education and TVET-System of Technical University of Dortmund, Germany, said TVET will always be changing and the country will have to be aware and adapt to the new changes.

Key personnel who are in the administration and

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Narayanganj City Corporation demolishes an illegal slum adjacent to an under construction lake with walkways in Deobhog area yesterday. At that time, a chase and counter-chase took place between the NCC workers and the slum dwellers, injuring two people. The NCC says the 20-year-old slum hindered the construction work. Around 80 percent of the project has been completed.

PHOTO: STAR

Play your part

Poba discussion urges authorities concerned including Wasa, city corporations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relevant authorities including Wasa and the city corporations have to deliver their duties accordingly in resolving the capital's storm drainage problem, said environmentalists at a discussion yesterday.

Every time there is a down-pour, the city goes under water for hours with the traffic system going haywire.

While Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has to keep their storm drainage facility functional, the two city corporations have to keep the surface drains clear of obstruction, they said. Also, the corporations have to collect all solid waste so that it does not clog up the drainage system.

DHAKA WATERLOGGING

"The natural drainage system of the surviving canals with their network with rivers and the water retention areas must be reclaimed as per Dhaka's master plan," said Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba).

Poba organised the discussion on "Waterlogging and Liability of Authorities" at its office in the capital.

Over the recent spate of urban flooding in Dhaka city with one taking severe proportion on July 26, both the city dwellers and urban experts decried the government negligence and inaction regarding the lack

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Safe water in all div cities by 2021: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Putting emphasis on the use of surface water, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said works are going on to ensure safe water supply from surface water sources to all the divisional cities by 2021.

"Projects are underway for ensuring safe water. The government wants to supply safe water to Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and other divisional cities before 2030 as per SDG's timeframe. By implementing Vision 2021, we will ensure safer water for all within 2021," she said while inaugurating Dhaka Water Conference at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon.

She said the government has given a special emphasis on reducing the use of groundwater and preservation of surface water and its use.

Hasina said generally the main problems in daily safe



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Focus on integrated water resources management

Suggests Dhaka Water Conference 2017

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at Dhaka Water Conference 2017 yesterday stressed the need for adopting an integrated water resources management system to attain sustainable economic development.

The integrated system would ensure efficient use of water resources and protection of the environment and various ecosystems, they also said during technical sessions of the meet.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the two-day international conference at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka.

Basin-wise water management, integrated water resources management and transboundary cooperation are needed for efficient use of water resources, the speakers said.

Two technical sessions -- "Integrated water resources management" and "Protection and restoration of water related ecosystems" -- were held yesterday. Bangladesh, China, Japan, Philippines and Sri Lanka presented keynote papers at the sessions.

The issues of making safe drinking water available at an affordable price, eradicating defecation in the open, involving local communities, preservation and revival of eco-systems were discussed at the sessions.

Bangladesh made a presentation on how species of Hilsha fish were revived and Philippines showed how they managed 500 rivers through river basin approach.

Eminent water expert Ainun Nishat, who chaired one of the sessions, said, "These countries today presented integrated water resources management practices that they have [implemented] in their respective countries. We have to learn the best practices from these experiences."

M Feroze Ahmed, former professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, in his keynote paper said, "...Protection of eco-sensitive areas, revival of damaged ecology, and aligning of development activities can reduce ecological deterioration..."

Yue Zhongming, a water resources ministry official in China, explained how his country adopted an integrated water management system for fair water-sharing.

WMRP Weerasinghe of Sri Lanka said achieving water sustainability will require education, awareness and commitment.

Tomoyuki Okada of Japan shared how his country revived various fish species and ecosystems in a number of rivers and lakes.



Rickshaws and a car carefully wade through an inundated portion of a road in Rampura below the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover. The authorities apparently are not aware of the immense sufferings of locals due to the snail's pace of the restoration work of roads and drainage damaged during the flyover construction. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BNP out to foil next nat'l polls

Allege ministers, AL MPs

CITY DESK

Ministers and ruling Awami League leaders yesterday alleged that BNP is hatching a conspiracy both at home and abroad to foil the next general election, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday said BNP is plotting to stop the polls as the party has no trust in countrymen.

"BNP is out to misguide people. But they will not be successful," he told the inaugural ceremony of three 10-seated "Ma o Shishu Kollyan Kendro", constructed by Health Engineering Department (HED), at Nischintapur High School under Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj district.

Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) Director General Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar and DGFP Deputy Director Md Shaheen Hasan addressed the function, among others, with Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) Shamim Ahmed in the chair.

Nasim, also Awami League presidium member, said the next general election will be held under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in line with the constitution.

"BNP is hatching conspiracy at national and international level as they know they cannot defeat Awami League

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A self-contradiction

BNP opposing EC, also getting ready to join its dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

Though it has been opposing the KM Nurul Huda-led Election Commission (EC) since its formation, BNP is likely to join EC dialogue to place the party's set of proposals, including deployment of army with magistracy power at least one week before the polls.

It also seeks a level-playing field and restoration of the pre-2008 delimitation of 300 parliamentary seats.

Senior leaders of the party said they have almost completed their all-out preparation, including making the written proposals, to join the EC dialogue.

They said once the party receives the invitation letter from the EC for the talks, a BNP delegation is likely to meet the chief election commissioner (CEC) with a request to fix their meeting schedule on a convenient date in September so that their chairperson can return home from the UK by the time.

BNP standing committee members will hold a meeting before joining the talks to finalise the party's proposals. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir is

supposed to lead the party delegation during the talks with the EC.

The EC will begin dialogue with political parties and other stakeholders on July 31, starting with civil society members. It will hold talks with 40 registered political parties in August-October.

"Though we've many questions about the current commission, mainly about the CEC, we'll participate in the talks with the commission as we still want to help it hold an acceptable and inclusive election," a BNP standing committee member told the news agency wishing anonymity.

After joining the talks, he said they would closely observe the EC's attitude and actions towards their party's proposals.

The BNP leader said their proposals may include amending the Representation of the People Order (RPO) to define the armed forces as the law enforcement agencies and giving them magistracy power, restoring the pre-2008 delimitation of 300 parliamentary constituencies, empowering the EC to take steps for creating a level-playing field before the announcement of election schedule,

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