

Plea to restructure vocational bodies

Vice-President Moudud Ahmed on Monday sought expert suggestions for re-structuring the existing vocational training institutions suiting to the needs of the present day industries, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a symposium on 'vocational education and training in Bangladesh' held at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Dhaka.

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam was the special guest at the function. Jointly organised by the Ministry of Education and Swedish International Development Agency (CIDA), it was also addressed by chief of World Bank resident mission in Bangladesh Francis Van Gigh, Joint Secretary of the Ministry Nuruddin M. Kamal, and Director-

General of Technical Education R. Mallik. Education Secretary Hedayet presided over the function.

The address of Swedish Ambassador Carl Olof Cederbland was read out by the Deputy Counsellor of the embassy as the Ambassador could not remain present.

Referring to the improvement of the existing facilities at the vocational institutions, the Vice-President said experts at the symposium could suggest some action programme so that vocational training and skill could contribute to the development of national economy and improvement of quality of life.

Pointing to the unemployment of the persons trained in the existing vocational training institutions, he said the symposium should find out the gap between the training imparted and the needs of the industries.

Optimum production

Mr. Moudud Ahmed said Bangladesh was poor as the country was unable to manage and exploit the available natural and human resources for national development.

He said people working at all levels in the farms and factories and the top brass management should be imparted training to get the optimum production and service.

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said vocational and technical education would continue to remain an important component of the government's overall strategy for human resources development.

Referring to the limitations of absorbing the graduates from vocational training institutions by the industries, he said it was necessary to reconceptualize and reorganise these institutions making them directly responsive to the needs of industry and commerce.

Pointing to non-formal vocational training programmes, he said these also should be restructured to create more opportunities for women.

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