

12 THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

More emphasis on technical edn. being given: PM

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Tuesday said that the technical education being emphasised by the Government was going to be integral part of the interim education policy which would be announced soon, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the five-day regional seminar on education and training of technicians jointly organised by the New Delhi based UNESCO Regional office, the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The seminar which coincides with the sixth annual meeting of the Association of Engineering Education in South and Central Asia (AEESCA) is being participated by representatives from Mongolia, USSR, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Burma.

The Prime Minister told the seminar that Bangladesh because of her population pressure was giving increasing emphasis on technical education. "We regard our vast population as an asset," he said adding that our huge manpower could be converted into a productive resources through providing people with technical and vocational training. He said that government was trying to develop technical education all over the country to achieve this goal.

Shah Aziz referred to the stress given on technical education in President Zia's 19-point programme and said the programme was a "national charter for national goals". He said under the programme vocational training institutes would be set up in every thana to produce more trained and skilled hands needed to implement the swanirvar projects being undertaken throughout the country to revolutionise country's agriculture and industry.

In this connection the Prime Minister referred to the call given by President Zia for a nation-wide programme beginning on December 1 to dig canals for water conservancy. We are working to inculcate the policy of self-reliance in all national fields he said adding that digging of canals for water conservancy and irrigation was essential for maximising the food production.

The inaugural session held at a local hotel was also addressed by Dr. Aung Gyi, Secretary General of the UNESCO Regional Office, Kazi Fazlur Rahman Education Secretary and Secretary General of Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO. Dr. Wahiduddin Ahmed Vice-Chancellor of Engineering University and Chairman of Seminar Steering Committee and Mr. Obaidul Islam Chairman of organising committee.

The Education Secretary in his address said that in recent years Bangladesh like other countries of the region had applied considerable resources and efforts for the improvement of technical education.

"We have tried to organise different tiers and levels of technical education to produce a balanced force of skilled and trained manpower. This has not been an easy task and it would be wrong to claim that the results have been upto our expectation," he observed.

Dr. Wahiduddin Ahmed in a prepared speech said technology sustained by scientific enquiry is the key to all progress and development provided that it can be applied with skill and ability. Technicians are the persons to provide that ability, he said adding that the policy makers in the government and educational planners should give serious thoughts to the question of status of the technicians as well as the status of "technician education" in the entire system of education which still remained undetermined.

Dr. Aung Gyi gave a brief account of activities of the UNESCO Regional Office and the decisions of the last meeting of the AEESCA held last year in Nepal. He hoped that the deliberations of the Dacca seminar on technical education would be of great benefit for the countries of the region.