

Sunday, September 16, 2018

NEWAGE

Each upazila to have a technical school, college: PM

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha . Dhaka | Updated at 12:11am on September 16, 2018



Prime minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at the 22nd national council session of the Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh at Ganabhaban on Saturday. -- Focusbangla photo

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday unveiled a government plan to establish a technical school and college in every upazila to create skilled workforces in the country as she inaugurated the diploma engineers' convention in the capital in Dhaka.

'A project has been taken to establish a technical school and college in every upazila to build a skilled workforce in the country and the work on establishing 100 such institutions has already begun,' she said.

She said that the Ministry of Education had also been working to set up four new government women polytechnic institutes and 23 world-class new polytechnic institutes in the country.

The premier said that nearly 500 government and private polytechnic institutes had been established across the country in the last nine and a half years as 'there is no alternative to skilled human resource with technical expertise.'

The premier also unveiled a government plan to build an elevated circular road around the Dhaka city while by now 'we're implementing mega projects like metro rails and flyovers and constructing the Padma Bridge with our own funding.'

Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 22nd National Convention of the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh at Gonobhaban in Dhaka by releasing balloons and pigeons and urging the engineers to work devotedly to present the next generation with a beautiful future.

'I call upon all, including the diploma engineers, to work devotedly so that the next generations get a beautiful future,' she said.

Sheikh Hasina said that the nation lost 21 valuable years from 1975 to 1996 during which no actual development took place in the country.

'The little development that took place in the 21 years occurred in the interest of the rulers and a few other people. . . the majority of the population was deprived and it's my responsibility to free them from deprivation,' she said.

The prime minister said that Bangladesh had now graduated into a developing country as her government took steps in that regard in a planned way.

'We've undertaken many projects for the development of the country and the people are getting its benefits,' she said.

She, however, urged all to give priority to building the nation by discarding thoughts of one's own benefits and said, 'Whatever we got and didn't get, we've to build the country first.'

The premier said that her government had raised the salary and allowances for government employees up to 123 per cent and created work opportunities for all.

IDEB president AKMA Hamid presided over the function while general secretary Md Shamsur Rahman delivered the keynote speech.

Apart from the huge number of diploma engineers, ministers, PM's advisers, parliament members, secretaries, foreign diplomats and delegates and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office were present at the function.

The prime minister said that she was doing politics for the welfare of the people of the country. 'I do politics to change the fate of the people, not my own and that's why the country is advancing fast,' she said.

The premier, however, pointed out different barriers and challenges her government faced in infrastructure development, particularly the Padma Bridge.

'Unnecessary and false corruption allegations were brought against me and my family regarding the bridge. I then took it as a challenge and declared that that we will construct the bridge with our own funding,' she said.

The premier said, 'A Bangladeshi Nobel laureate lost his managing directorship of a bank in a legal battle with the government and requested the then United States secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, to stop the funding following which the World Bank issued the directive to stop funding for the project.' 'I then declared that we will build the bridge with our own money as I had come to power to change the fate of the people, not to engage in irregularities,' she said.

Sheikh Hasina said that the Canadian federal court later gave the judgment that the World Bank allegations had been false and fabricated.

She reiterated that her government wanted to develop all villages of the country by ensuring civic amenities and improve the lifestyle of the rural people.

'We'll make sure that each community in every village gets urban facilities and can lead a decent life. We'll turn every village into a township,' she said.

The premier said, 'We are now able to provide all kinds of facilities in villages so that people's tendency to migrate to towns is decreased. The government is providing low-interest loans to construct multi-storied buildings in rural areas as part of this initiative.'

She said that diploma engineers played an important role in the government development activities as they were responsible for implementation and quality assurance of development works at the field level.

'Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world with 160 million people living in a small area. We have to ensure proper and sustainable use of resources in a bid to make food, clothing, houses and other basic needs available for them,' Sheikh Hasina said.

The premier said that the government was developing 100 special economic zones across the country and a hi-tech park in Gazipur as it wanted to utilise the benefits of the demographic dividend.

'These will create a large number of employment opportunities in the country,' she said.

The premier said that engineering colleges and universities, science and technology universities were set up, developed and expanded in different districts of the country while online admission in diploma engineering courses and double shifts had been introduced at public polytechnic institutes.

'A project has been taken up to raise the admission capacity to 1 lakh, instead of 25 thousand, at government polytechnic institutes,' she said. Sheikh Hasina said that the government had approved a project worth Tk 3600 crore for construction of a 10-storied building, installation of workshops and labs and created about seven thousand posts for teachers and employees in 49 public polytechnic institutes.

Sheikh Hasina said that vocational and madrassah department was already set up at the Ministry of Education.

'We've formulated and implemented the National Technical Vocational Qualification Framework and Bangladesh Qualification Framework will also be formulated in the same way,' she said.

The premier said that a proposal was now being considered to set up a technical and vocational university for higher studies and to facilitate research-technology based education.

On the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed between Bangladesh and India, the IDEB and Hindustan Machine Tools International were jointly setting up the Common Facility Centre in Khulna and Jessore for small and medium enterprises, she said.

Sheikh Hasina said that the Awami League-led government always contributed to the development of the IDEB. 'We allocated Tk 100 million for the construction of the IDEB Bhaban in 1996 and Tk 190 million in 2009-2013,' she said.

The prime minister said that the government took up a new project costing Tk 100 million for training and capacity building of the IDEB Bhaban in 2014, which was now completed.

She said that the construction of 25-storied IDEB Bhaban was going on, a project for the vertical extension of the IDEB Bhaban, including establishment of training and research lab, was under process for final approval.

Bangladesh, she said, had graduated into a developing country and the government had adopted 100-year Delta Plan 2100. 'Through implementing the Delta Plan, we shall build a prosperous, developed and sustainable Bangladesh by 2100.'

'We want to be a developed and prosperous country and hold our heads high in the world. Our aim is to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 on the golden jubilee of our great independence and a developed one by 2041, Insha Allah,' she said.

Earlier, the prime minister handed over IDEB Gold Medals to three diploma engineers for their contributions to the field.

At the outset of the function, she also talked to TVet, a robot built by the diploma engineers.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

© 2018 Media New Age Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.