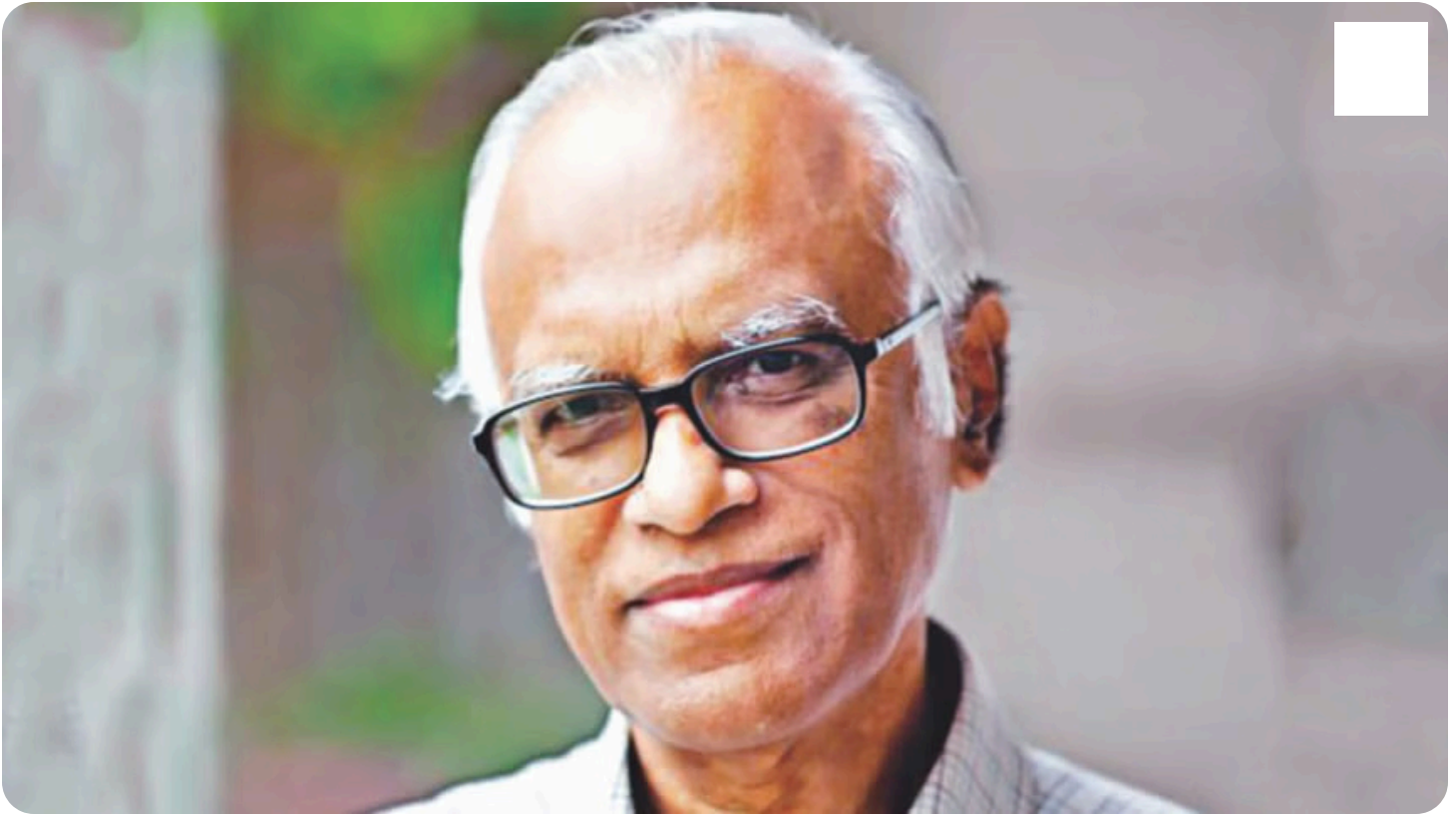


# Tackle graft in edn sector

Wahiduddin Mahmud tells DCs; instructs them to resume stalled projects



File photo of Wahiduddin Mahmud

Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud has instructed deputy commissioners (DCs) to closely monitor irregularities and corruption in the education sector.

He also asked them to focus on forming management boards for private educational institutions.



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"Retired government employees, teachers, dignitaries and respected local figures should be included in those committees so that teachers do not face problems in recruitment or work. The DCs have also been asked to resist political pressure in this regard," he said while talking to reporters after a discussion on the first day of the DC Conference 2025 in Dhaka.

Mahmud said that private school and college management boards face significant challenges, including political influence. While administrators were initially appointed to oversee these boards, the workload of DCs and UNOs made the process unsustainable.

A new circular from the education ministry now mandates that school management committee members must hold at least a bachelor's degree, while college board members must have a master's degree. "This measure aims to shield the management process from political interference," he added.

Addressing stalled infrastructure projects, he said DCs have been instructed to find ways to resume work halted due to contractors fleeing after receiving payment.

"Some contractors vanished without completing their jobs, and with no local representatives in place, DCs have been empowered to appoint new contractors for public welfare projects," he said.

Previously, local political leaders played a key role in project selection, but that dynamic has shifted. DCs have now been tasked with identifying essential local projects, such as road repairs and school building reconstruction, and submitting proposals to the relevant ministries or directly to the planning ministry.

Mahmud acknowledged that many teachers are not receiving their allowances and that school inspectors often harass them. He stressed the need for better oversight, as both parties bear the responsibility.

He assured that students would receive their textbooks by the end of February and that steps were being taken to clear outstanding payments for teachers.

"The funds available for retirement benefits are highly insufficient. At least Tk 6,000-7,000 crore is needed, which cannot be allocated within a single year's budget. A dedicated fund will be created by issuing bonds," he said.