

Restructuring of education system stressed

Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable on Monday stressed on restructuring the country's education system, putting special focus on professionalisation and make it demand-oriented in the context of free-market economy.

They said that the young people should be trained in the specific fields, instead of too much BBA and MBA for proper economic progress of the country.

Development oriented education, especially vocation and technical training to the youths are more time-worthy for reaching

the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 through cutting poverty of the country, speakers said addressing a roundtable titled "Partnerships for Employment of Women and Youth" at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) jointly organised the roundtable marking formulation of a UNDP funded full-fledged project styled "Employment and Empowerment of Women and Youth supporting the

PRSP."

The UNDP has funded a Preparatory Assistance (PA) project in this respect to reduce the sufferings of the people of Monga prone areas in Rangpur and Kurigram.

Representatives from the donor agencies, NGOs, business houses and stakeholders also gave their opinions for providing technical training to the youths and women so they can work in agro-processing industry, pisci-culture, sericulture, poultry farming and sewing factories with competence.

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Restructuring

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Chaired by MA Momen, President of the DCCI, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Youths and Sports Idris Ali, Director General of the Department of Youth and Sports SM Waliur Rahman, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Larry Maramis, former President of DCCI Engineer Rashed Maksud Khan, DCCI Director Md Sabur Khan, Women Entrepreneurs Gitiara Chowdhury, Hasina Jahan Ruba, Safina Rahman, among others, spoke at the discussion.

Suvira Chaturvedi, Chief Technical Adviser of UNDP presented the concept paper at the roundtable.

Suvira Chaturvedi citing a statistics said almost 38 per cent of the 63.3 million strong labour forces are either underemployed or unemployed due to lack of professional skill and training in the country. "A disproportionately greater incidence on underemployment among women and youth unemployment is at an all time high with rising trends," she added.

Former DCCI President Sayeul Islam said to run a business access to financing is not a matter rather shortages of skilled and trained manpower is necessary for the industrial growth in the country.

KMH Shahidul Haque said capacity building and confidence of the grass root people has to be increased through providing them with vocational training to address the unemployment problem and