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Mass-oriented educational policy stressed

Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed on Thursday said attending the Fourth Regional Conference of Education Ministers in Colombo had been immensely beneficial in so far as it helped exchange the mutual experiences of the 25 nations participating in it.

Talking to BSS on arrival in Dacca on Thursday evening the Education Minister said at the conference he had stressed on the development of pro-people Mass-oriented education system that would ensure access to education for all.

He said it was very significant for Bangladesh to have attended the conference of Education Ministers for Asia and Oceania sponsored by UNESCO. He said it was for the first time that Bangladesh had attended the conference. Bangladesh was elected the first Vice-President of the conference while the host country was elected the President.

He said the Bangladesh delegation led by him had made important contributions in the conference.

Kazi Zafar said that the conference also provided the Bangladesh delegation a unique opportunity in explaining Bangladesh's views on different issues.

He said that during his stay in Colombo he had met President Jayawardene and also the Prime Minister and the Education Minister of Sri Lanka and had discussed with them matters of mutual interest.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that he had told the conference that education particularly non-formal education, was basis to all development efforts for socio-economic transformation and increased welfare of the people.

He also suggested that equal opportunities be given to women in education and a preferential treatment in job opportunities specially in teaching profession. Laying stress on inexpensive teaching aids specially in the field of science education he said that UNESCO should do a lot in this regard.

He also mentioned the recent changes made in the syllabus of formal education in Bangladesh putting stress on vocational, technical and production oriented education. He also said that he also spoke on Government's programme for setting up technical and agricultural schools at thana level.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that the conference would continue till August 1 and added other members of the Bangladesh delegation have stayed back to continue their participation in the conference. He had attended the conference on July 24 and 25 and Bangladesh had the privilege to preside over the afternoon session of July 25.

The Education Minister said that he had met and held discussions with Director General of UNESCO at his Colombo camp. He said that the UNESCO Director General assured cooperation and help of his organisation in solving problems in the field of education in Bangladesh.

He said that the UNESCO Director General has accepted his invitation to visit Bangladesh in coming January.

He expressed his appreciation of the progress made by Sri Lanka in the field of education.

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