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## 3polytechnic, 22 vocational institutes to be set up soon

By A Staff Reporter

Vice-President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar said on Sunday that three new polytechnic institutes and 22 new vocational institutes would soon be established to produce more trained technical hands to cater to the growing needs of the country.

Inaugurating the three-day fourth national conference of the Bangladesh Institute of Diploma Engineers at the WAPDA auditorium, the Vice-President stressed the need for ensuring proper utilisation of the trained manpower coming out of these institutes. "We should also ensure that these people are duly placed in the society with dignity and honour".

Presided over by Mr Tazamul Hossain, President of the Central Executive Committee of BIDE, the meeting was also addressed by Mr Shafiuddin Sarker. The Vice-President said that the Government was alive to the problems of the technical education, the polytechnic institutes and the employment problems of the polytechnic graduates. Possible solutions were now being considered.

He said that the country needed a large number of diploma engineers for the development of the country and with this end in view the polytechnic institutes had been set up.

He pointed out that although the polytechnic institutes were imparting elementary training to the students, it was his personal opinion that the meritorious and qualified students coming out of these institutes should be given the chance to have higher training at degree level.

He said the demand for higher education of these students had been accepted in principle and necessary steps were being taken to implement

this.

Mr Justice Sattar said that there were three engineering colleges, one university, 17 polytechnic, four monotechnic and 50 vocational institutes in the country. Three new polytechnic institutes (one exclusively for female students), 22 vocational institutes and one technical teachers training institute would be set up in the country in the near future.

He emphasised the need for ensuring dignity of labour in order to attain economic emancipation. He was of the opinion that the recommendations made by the Institute of Diploma Engineers in upholding the dignity of labour should receive due consideration. He assured that genuine demands of the diploma engineers would be met by the Government as far as the country's resources permitted.

Mr Tazamul Hossain, in his presidential speech, highlighted the problems faced by the diploma holders in getting higher education vis-a-vis their grading under the national pay scale. He elaborated the six-point demands of the Institute of Diploma Engineers which included 'one channel education system' for the country's technical institutions, bifurcation of the engineering service into desk and field, placement of the diploma engineers next to the degree engineers in the national pay scale, transformation of the Engineering University and Agricultural University into general university, abolition of the gazette system and introduction of construction law.