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Science to be compulsory in class IX, X

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said that steps were afoot to make science education compulsory for all students of classes IX and X.

Inaugurating a 5-day international workshop on "out-of-school science and technology education" at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka, he said that science syllabus had been changed and new text books and teachers' guides produced for the purpose.

Delegates from six foreign countries, besides Bangladesh, are attending the workshop organised by the Science Museum of the Science and Technology Division, Ministry of Education, with support from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The foreign countries represented are P R China, Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam said that out-of-schools science education was very important for Bangladesh. He said that Bangladesh which lagged behind her neighbours and most developed countries with regard to the development of science and technology, should take advantage of the innovations taking place elsewhere for her own development.

He said that the national

council for science and technology was now actively finding out ways and means to narrow down the technology gap.

Alhaj Md. Mansur Ali Sarkar, State Minister for Education who was the special guest at the inaugural function thanked the organisers of the workshop for bringing together participants with varied experiences and expertise in the subject.

Mr. A N M Yusuf Secretary, Science and Technology Division, in his presidential address said that out of 20 million people in the age group of 15 to 20 year in Bangladesh, only about one million were students. The remaining 19 million either did not have the opportunity of attending schools or dropped out mainly due to financial problems.