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## Proposed edn policy to be placed before JS soon

Education Minister A S H K Sadique yesterday said the proposed education policy was now in its final stage of placing before the Jatiya Sangsad after Cabinet approval, reports BSS.

"The draft policy was prepared through a long study keeping in mind the present day demands and future perspectives... accommodating proposals of different sections which were scrutinised by a learned and competent forum," he told a discussion on the proposed policy in the TSC auditorium in the city.

He added that the proposed policy suggested an updated and science-oriented education system as per election pledges of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the light of Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission report and UNESCO recommendations.

Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association (BCUTA) and Bangladesh Foundation for Research Development jointly organised the programme.

Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Nurul Islam Nahid, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, BCUTA president Prof Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Rangalal Sen and Principal Shahjahan Mian, among others, spoke at the function attended by a large number of teachers.

Prof Monazuddin Patwari and Hamida Banu presented two papers.

The minister identified the lapses in the current education system as the main reasons for poverty and foreign dependence

of the country as it failed to produce skilled manpower. Insufficient allocation, particularly for primary and university education were two other issues to be blamed for lapses in this regard, he added.

Sadique said firm political conviction, competent teachers, and sufficient funding and above all, political consensus are the most important necessities to implement the policy. "Without political consensus, it would be impossible to implement the policy," he said.

The minister categorically said there was no contradiction between religion and science education and those who want to create confusion on this issue were in fact trying to mislead people with ulterior motives.

Nahid said the country was in a crisis for want of an education policy as the existing system, introduced by the British colonial rulers, could not keep standard.

He particularly pointed out there was acute problems in teaching mathematics and English, which he said were very important to keep pace with the advancing world.

Prof Azad Chowdhury said it was a tough task to incorporate the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission's recommendations into the proposed policy in view of the present world order.

He said it was a matter of pride that Bangladesh was one of the five countries that received UNESCO award for success in literacy development along with France "as it has been able to literate half of its huge population."