



NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Roughly a quarter of the population falls in the "youth" category. Their ranks keep swelling as the years roll by and new generations wait their turn to join the force. In a capital-short over-populated country like ours the multiple problems of underdevelopment are compounded by the low level of literacy in the total population and the absence of extensive human-resource-development facilities. Lately the Ministry, Directorate and other related bodies concerned with youth development have been focusing attention on these young adults. It is marked by the observance of a National Youth Day, which falls today, and the implementation of relevant projects that train and guide youths towards productive lives.

The Upazila Resource Development and Employment Project (URDEP) which has seen some measure of success in enhancing the productivity of recruits in two upazilas is to be replicated in five more upazilas from the next fiscal year. Needless to say, the main source of capital for Bangladesh is the productivity of its population. To make the best use of the available manpower, however, we need to bring about some drastic changes at the very base of our education system. Enshrined in our constitution is every citizen's right to universal primary education yet we do not have enough primary schools to house all the country's children. What is worse over 70 per cent of those enrolled in our 45,000 primary schools drop out before the fifth year, and the letters and numbers are soon forgotten as there are few occupational or social opportunities for the practice of literacy. Obviously the system is not relevant enough to hold the learners, nor has it the promise of profitability.

Experts in human resource development in Bangladesh gets the minimum grant-in-aid from reputed international firms for research in developing countries. The cost of the research is estimated to be Rs 100,000.

NOTICE
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