

## Data bank to remove information gap essential

Planning Minister A.M. Zahiruddin Khan on Thursday said that setting up of a data bank had become essential to remove the information gap that existed among the policy makers of the country, reports BSS.

In this age of faster technological changes only the data bank could help the policy makers to adopt proper and suitable technology for the country, Mr. Khan said while addressing the inaugural function of a two-day training workshop on "leadership style" organised by the Institute of Diploma Engineers.

The Minister said he would personally initiate the concept of setting up the data bank at the Planning Commission for use of the policy makers and planners.

Referring to the vast manpower resources of the country the Planning Minister said the present democratically elected government had attached highest priority to human resources development for effective utilisation of the manpower.

He also mentioned the priority attached to "participatory planning concept initiated by the BNP government.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Md. Nasim and Shafiuuddin Sarker and A.K.M.A. Hamid, President and General Secretary respectively of the Institute of Diploma Engineers also addressed the inaugu-

ral session held at the Technical Teachers Training College in Dhaka.

The Planning Minister pleaded for reaching a national consensus on the major economic issues faced by the country and said "it is the equal responsibility of both the ruling party and the opposition to carry on the mandate of the people".

With a view to reaching consensus debate could be initiated in Parliament on macro-economic management, he said.

Mr. Khan also suggested the undertaking of continuous dialogue between the government and the opposition political parties and professional groups on various issues confronting the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Opposition Chief Whip Md. Nasim gave the assurance that his party was ready to take any step for reaching consensus on the major economic issues of the country.

He suggested that those issues should be debated in Parliament and said on such occasions members belonging to various political parties should rise above their party interests.

Referring to the united decision to switch over to the parliamentary form of government, the opposition chief whip said with that the democracy had started a new journey in Bangladesh "now we should try to make the parliament more effective", he added.

Mr. Nasim admitted the lapses of the Awami League government and said that defective and faulty planning of the successive governments had also hampered the normal growth of the country.

He suggested that politics could be prohibited in the academic institutions in phases through banning the same in the institutions where specialist education like medicine, engineering and vocational education were imparted.

Mr. Nasim called for adopting policies which would help turn the vast manpower of the country into resources.

Mr. Shafiuuddin Sarker called for proper utilisation of the Diploma Engineers in the tasks of nation building.

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