

Lack of edn bar to use of resources

Education Minister Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said in Dhaka on Saturday that the democratically elected BNP government was committed to spread mass education in the country.

He said only proper education could help us lead a decent and healthy life with our available resources. Lack of education is the principal hindrance to the best utilisation of our limited resources, he added.

The Education Minister was inaugurating the 5th Bangladesh Nutrition Conference at the auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum organised by the Nutrition Society of Bangladesh. The inaugural session of the three-day conference was chaired by Prof Kamaluddin Ahmad, President of the society.

The theme of the conference is "Nutrition for Development."

The inaugural sessions addressed, among others, by FAO Representative in Bangladesh, Mr Peter Myers, WHO representative Dr A N A Abeyesundere and Dr Delwar Ali Khan of UNICEF.

Describing nutrition deficiency as a "major and crucial" problem for Bangladesh, Prof Badruddoza noted that this could be substantially reduced by changing food habit. He said potatoes, which is grown abundantly these days, could meet our calorie and Vitamin C requirements. Similarly green and leafy vegetables could be a great source of Vitamin D, he said.

Prof Chowdhury said the people have to be motivated about the fact that the energy they receive from cereal like rice could also be available from potatoes and wheat. Potato intake must have to be increased and it should become part of the diet, he added.

Prof Chowdhury underscored the importance of having a clear-cut nutrition policy because of the huge size of population and average low level nutrition intake. He assured the gathering to do his best to reorganise Bangladesh

Nutrition Council, which is remaining idle quite for some time.

The Education Minister advocated inclusion of health and family planning in the curricula in primary and secondary education. He said, "we want to make education life-oriented and the people motivated about how best they can live with locally available resources."