

NEWAGE

Quality education still a big challenge: Nahid

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EDUCATION minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Sunday said improving the quality of education is still a big challenge though the country's education sector has made a marked progress amid various constraints.

'The quality of education cannot be ensured overnight,' he said while addressing a press briefing over the Annual Online Survey of Educational Institutions 2015 at office of the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics in the capital.

BANBEIS is now conducting the survey on a total of 37,986 educational institutions, except primary schools, across the country. The survey that started on October 10 last will con-

clude on November 10 next.

Among the 37,986 post-primary institutions, 2,412 junior secondary schools, 16,319 secondary schools, 953 higher secondary institutions (school and college), 3,985 colleges, 9,341 Madrasahs, 4,014 technical and vocational institutions, 215 teachers' training colleges, 476 professional educational institutions, 112 private and public universities and 159 English medium schools.

The minister said all families now want to send their children to schools as education-friendly environment has created in the country, which is a great achievement. The rise in enrolment and gender equity in education are also big achievements. 'We're also getting global recognition,' he added.

About the survey, Nahid stressed the need for collecting accurate and authentic information for taking proper plans to solve the problems.

'If information is not authentic, we'll never be able to take proper plans.'

He said autistic children were never counted in the mainstream, but the present government first included them in the National Education Policy 2010. 'But we can't provide them with all supports for lack of information. If we don't know how many visually-impaired students are studying, we cannot provide them with books.'

Education secretary Md Nazrul Islam Khan said every institution will have to have an own website with information details regarding it and its students. 'The

ministry has already started working to ensure website for every educational institution.'

Turning to the survey, he said the data collection system will be improved in the future so that the software will automatically gather information on real time from the websites of the institutions soon after the sites are updated.

BANBEIS director Md Fashiullah said they started collecting data of the survey in 2013 from heads of the institutions through online.

Aiming to publish the annual report on Bangladesh Educational Statistics Report, BANBEIS conducts survey every year to gather a set of information like infrastructural facilities, teachers, students, type of institutions and the exam results, he added.