

Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said the government has planned to develop the country's communications system by saving the environment and rivers.

"Our aim is to develop the communications system of the country by saving the environment and rivers," she said.

She said this when a delegation of Institution of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh (IEDB) led by its President AKMA Hamid called on her at her office to submit their recommendations titled 'Steps to Keep Rivers Around Dhaka City Including Burhiganga Pollution Free and Increase Flow'.

PM's press secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhury briefed reporters after the meeting.

He said the Prime Minister laid emphasis on maintaining the navigability of the rivers across the country through river dredging.

In this connection, she stressed maintaining the navigability of six waterways around Dhaka city -- Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Balu, Turag, Dhaleshawri and Tongi Khal.

By making these waterways navigable, the Prime Minister said, it will be possible to carry goods at cheaper charges alongside carrying passengers on one hand and the banks of the rivers would turn into tourist spots on the other.

She underscored the need for playing an effective role by IDEB in taking realistic plans and implementing those to develop the communications system.

In achieving the target, Hasina said, the engineers of the IDEB will also have to play effective role and contribute in developing the communications system in the country.

The Prime Minister mentioned that it was Bangabandhu who had organised the diploma engineers in 1950 and subsequently the organization got a strong foundation which later became a strong organization.

In this connection, she recalled that many of the IDEB members also joined the great Liberation War in 1971 in response to the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman was, among others, present during the meeting.