

# NEWAGE

THE OUTSPOKEN DAILY

December 22, 2018

## **Youth's leadership skills to help B'desh achieve its full potential: envoy**

Dutch ambassador to Bangladesh Harry Verweij on Friday said that Bangladesh could only achieve its full potential if the youth were prepared with the right kind of communication and leadership skills.

'Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre is doing a commendable job in preparing the Bangladeshi youth for the challenges of tomorrow,' he said.

The Dutch ambassador was addressing a graduation ceremony hosted by BYLC under the 'Building Bridges through Leadership Training' programmes at a hotel in Dhaka.

About 160 students from English and Bengali medium schools and madrassahs were selected for the programmes.

The selected participants went through rigorous training on the theoretical and practical concepts of leadership, learning skills in critical thinking, problem solving and communication. After in-class leadership training, the students worked in small groups in underprivileged communities to translate their classroom learning into action by designing and implementing small, scalable, and sustainable community service projects.

This year, there were 22 projects across the four programmes, addressing issues on health, education, and civic responsibilities, according to Dutch embassy in Dhaka.

The programmes were supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Dhaka.

BYLC chairperson Akhter Matin Chaudhury said that leadership involved sacrifice. 'You'll only become an effective leader when you're able to put the collective interest ahead of your personal interests.'

Founder and president of BYLC Ejaj Ahmad said that leadership was about working with others and striving to make progress on some of the tough challenges facing as a group, community, or country.

'I hope that the training at BYLC will both inspire and prepare you for a lifetime of leadership for the development of our society,' he said.

Through five different programmes aimed at different age groups, BYLC had been working to build connections amongst youth from different background and equipping them with leadership skills to enable them to have impact in Bangladesh's public, private, and civil sectors.

In the past 10 years, BYLC had trained over 3,500 young people.