

## Education system needs to be technical-oriented

By A. Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said on Sunday that the country needed a stable education policy in keeping with the needs of the time.

Addressing the fifth annual general meeting of the Foundation for Research on Educational Planning and Development, the Prime Minister said that the education system needed to be technical-oriented to turn the population into a viable human capital.

Presided over by Foreign Minister Prof M Shamsul Huq, who is the President of the Foundation, the function was also addressed by Prof Fazlul Holim Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University and Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Foundation, Dr M Selim, Chairman, Research Cell of the Foundation and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Shah Azizur Rahman said that the country needed more technicians, builders and carpenters to face the challenges of modernisation and development. He said that education should reach the majority of the people.

The Prime Minister said that in the past, education did not reach the common man and the system was not conducive to the welfare of the people. We had produced a large number of master's and Bachelors degree holders. Most of them, however, only increased the number of educated unemployed in the country.

He said that the colonial education system existed in the country even today and it had to be changed now that the country had become independent. He said that the universities should be more technically biased and the curricula needed to be changed to meet our needs.

The Prime Minister said that more emphasis needed to be laid on non-formal education than on formal education to produce more productive labour

force in the country.

In his presidential speech Prof M Shamsul Huq said that in Bangladesh it was not possible to achieve the objectives of national development without changing the basic concepts and strategies of planning. He said that efforts to control population must go hand in hand with efforts to convert the growing population into productive human capital.

Emphasising the role of research on education and economic planning the Foreign Minister said in the past educational plans were based on unrealistic and preconceived notions or on models borrowed from an entirely different so-

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cial context. Those plans, therefore, did neither reflect adequately the contemporary needs of the economy nor its social and economic realities. Those plans thus failed to achieve the desired results and caused many distortions in the development of education.

Prof Fazlul Halim Chowdhury said that it was time that more efforts were made to solve problems obtaining in the country locally without outside help. This called for increased indigenous research by our scholars and experts, he said.