

Govt firm to recast education system : PM

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Shah Aziz Rahman said on Sunday that the Government was firm to recast the education system of the country to make it fit to cater the needs of time.

The Prime Minister who is also incharge of Ministry of Education was speaking as chief guest at a reunion of alumni of Nabakumar Institution, one of the oldest secondary schools of the metropolis.

He said that this was an age of "science, technology and satellites" and the emphasis must be on technical education and not on general education. He reiterated that the Government planned to set up polytechnic institutes in each thana of the country.

Presided over by Alhaj Moulana Fazlul Karim the function was also addressed by State Minister for Education Mr. Abdul Baten. Four former students of the school which was established in 1916 by the sons of Mr. Nabakumar, a philanthropist reminisced of their old days in the school. They were Air Vice Marshal Sadr-uddin, Chief of Air Staff, Dr. Jarafullah Chowdhury, an eminent social worker, Mr. Shafiqul Amin, ex-Principal of College of Arts and Crafts and Mr. Mahbubuddin, Director LANDSAT programme. Mr. Abdul Mannan, Headmaster of the school, in an address of welcome highlighted the problems faced by Nabakumar Institution at present. The school was approved by Calcutta University in 1919.

GENERAL EDUCATION

Prime Minister Shah Aziz said that general education had lost importance in the context of our present socio-economic development. We were turning out lakhs of youths educated in general line every year in the country and they remained jobless. The unemployment problem had been escalating and these educated youths could not be given employment in the mills and factories, he said.

He said that the lot of the people could not be changed and improved unless more emphasis was given on the study of science and technology. The country needed more engineers, builders, scientists and technicians for attaining nation-

nal development, he said. He observed that higher education should be selective for meritorious students. He said that the Government would take steps to make education from the secondary level selective. He argued that higher education particularly on general lines, did not ensure productive employment for the students.

NECESSARY STEPS

The Prime Minister said that necessary measures were being taken to include technical education in the new curriculum for schools and colleges of the country. He also advised the students to take up science and technical studies.

Referring to the problems of Nabakumar Institution, Shah Aziz said that steps would be taken to solve those within the shortest possible time.

State Minister Mr Abdul Baten in his speech stressed on better teacher-student relations in the educational arena for improving the quality of education. Headmaster of the school, Mr Abdul Mannan, in his speech urged the authorities to take necessary steps so that the school could get the ownership of its land which had been occupied by some other institute and expedite the disbursement of grants to the school.