

## Uniform pay-scale for teachers in phases

# Govt to take over all schools, colleges by '85

By A Staff Correspondent

The Prime Minister, Shah Azizur Rahman, said on Saturday that the Government plans to take over all the private schools and colleges in phases by 1985.

The hopes and aspirations of the people in a developing state can be fulfilled through universal compulsory education, the Prime Minister asserted. Knowledge constitutes the foundation of economic power and key to economic prosperity in a developing country, he added.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Government's objective to create adequate facilities for universal education at primary level, liberalisation of education upto secondary stage and to make higher education selective.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating a three-day annual conference of the Bangladesh

College Teachers Association at the Dacca College auditorium.

Presided over by Professor A.F.M. Khalilur Rahman, President, Bangladesh College Teachers Association (BCTA), the inaugural session of the conference was also addressed by Ministers Abdul Momen Khan, Lt. Col (Retd) A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Abdur Rahman Mr. L.H. Horace Perera Director, World Federation of Organisation of Teaching Profession (WFOTP) Prof. M. Shareeful Islam, Secretary-General, BCTA and Principal A.K.M. Shahidullah.

Criticising the mushroom growth of schools and colleges by some unscrupulous elements over the last few years the Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Education, said a large number of such colleges and schools failed to serve the purpose of education in the true sense of the term.

With regard to the demand of school and college teachers for uniform pay scales the Prime Minister said: "We agree on principle that on the basis of social justice there should be uniformity but due to resource constraints it would be done gradually and phase wise. Regarding weeding out of

fake schools and colleges, he sought the cooperation of the teachers. There has been an allocation of Tk. 30 crore annually for the non-government schools and college teachers as teachers' benefit, the Prime Minister said.

The university laws will be formulated in a uniform pattern and at present a ministerial council is working on it, he disclosed.

The Quadrat-e-Khuda Commission report has already been implemented upto class Five relating to curricula and the implementation of the report upto Class Seven is underway, he said.

Replying to those who demanded the setting up of the Islamic University in or around the Dacca city, he said that it was not justified and added that the great universities of the world are situated outside the capital. In this connection he referred to the universities of India and Sri Lanka which are situated far away from the capital. He said for the pursuit of undisturbed knowledge the setting up of the Islamic University is not justified in the city. He said Khulna Division has no university or any big educational institution and justice demands that the proposed Islamic University should be set up there.

He stressed the need for literacy for national development and cited examples from the neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and Japan where the literacy rate is 92 per cent and 99 per cent respectively.

Mr. Abdul Momen Khan, Minister for Food, said the existing rationing facilities for the teachers would be further improved. In this connection, he reminded the teachers of their responsibility to the nation.

Mr. Abdur Rahman, Minister for Works and Urban Development, said the teachers demand for housing could be materialised phase by phase.

The Home Minister, Lt. Col. (Retd). A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, urged the teachers to contribute their best to build the country's future leadership.

The benefit of literacy should be provided to at least 80 per cent of the population who are deprived of education the Home Minister stressed.