



## Education under cloud

Dear Editor:

Education is the basis of all development activities. It is a pity that education did not receive its due share of governmental attention in the past. Rather it was unintelligently handled so long.

Unwarranted and excessive bureaucratic control in the past seriously interfered with the normal functioning of the education sector. It adversely affected education of the country as a whole.

Although investment in education for the development of human resources is essential for the intellectual and economic development of the country, the allocation for education was always ridiculously meagre.

It is also curious to know how this inadequate fund, as was available for education, has so long been utilised for purposes other than furthering the cause of education. The many changes brought in the administrative hierarchy and the various reorganisations made in the departmental set-up of education so long were not really aimed at improving the lot of education system itself.

The larger portion of the budget allocation of the

education department was swallowed in maintaining the big bosses in top-heavy administration. But the organisations and the institutions at the field level have remained the same as they were in the bygone days. Surprisingly, no improvement at the field level was felt necessary.

The much talked of development in the education sector was actually materialised in developing the officers and the offices at the higher level and the combination of the budget allotments, grants and foreign aids has thus been exhausted in maintaining a gigantic machinery of the education department.

The educational institutions at the ground level on the other hand had to depend on doles. There still exist thousands of primary schools in the remote villages where pupils sit on the ground and take shelter under the trees and also hundreds of secondary schools, both in urban and rural areas, with students jam-packed in pigeon-holes.

The half-fed and half-clad teachers of both primary and secondary schools as well as the field

staff of the education department who actually keep the whole show running, have got no security of their services and they are denied of adequate emoluments and all other facilities necessary for keeping the institutions functioning.

It is heartening to learn that the government is thinking for an overhauling of the education sector in the near future. We would hope that attempts would be made to go deep into the root of all malaise and measures by taken so that the children of the common people, spread over sixty five thousand villages of Bangladesh, can get a proper return of the money invested in educating them.

We want that the education system of the country is changed and the term development in education should mean development of the children we teach. We want no more buildings and offices. No more committees and commissions do we need. We need more children to be educated and wish to see them educated properly.

Yours sincerely,  
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