

Education sector

Contd from page 2
which have played successful
role in removing illiteracy.

SECONDARY AND COLLEGE EDUCATION

The problems which are plaguing the secondary and college education are. (a) low standard of teaching and inadequacy of qualified and efficient teachers, (b) Maximum number of failures in secondary and higher secondary examinations (c) Inadequate facilities, (d) Big gap of facilities between the urban and rural schools (e) Weak management both centrally and locally, etc.

In the wake of these problems, the government has laid stress on the development of secondary and college education under the current plan. According to the plan, programme has been drawn to develop the infrastructural academic facilities and given emphasis on science education

in the secondary schools and colleges. To reduce the pressure of admission in the universities, the government took special scheme to extend facilities of honours and post-graduate education in 11 degree colleges of the district headquarters in 1983-84. Besides programmes taken to set up science labs and supply science equipment to 77 non-government inter-mediate colleges. There are at present 10,246 secondary schools throughout the country, of which 252 are government high schools. The present government has nationalised 99 high and secondary schools. The number of colleges in the country is 758 of which 275 are non-government intermediate, college, 11 government intermediate, 298 non-government degree college and 174 government degree colleges. The present government nationalised 84 colleges. Payment of 70 percent of the basic salary of the non-government teachers as grants is a remarkable achievement of the present

government.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

There are three kinds of institutions for imparting technical education. The degree awarding institutions are engineering college, textile technology college, teacher technology college. Diploma awarding institutions are polytechnic institutes, institute of glass ceramics, graphic arts institute and certificate awarding institutions are vocational training institutes. The number of technical institutions in the country is 79. Considerable progress has been made in the technical education sector for the last few years. Construction of hostels for the female polytechnic students has been done with each of the country's 17 polytechnic institutes in addition to a women's polytechnic institute in Dhaka with residential facilities. These were done for the expansion of technical education among the women. A common finishing facilities centre has

been set up in the premises of teacher technology institute for the leather industry. The centre will help attain skill and necessary practical knowledge to the workers employed in tanneries around the institute. A project under the name of technical education project is in the process of implementation to further strengthen the "technical education directorate and improvement of the technical teachers training college. The project will improve the quality of education in the 4 Bangladesh institutes of technology (formerly engineering college) and 17 polytechnic institutes. The project includes (a) teacher training, (b) improvement of curricula, (c) Training of the students in the mills and factories (d) repair and renovation of old buildings, (e) supply of machinery, (f) reforms of examination system. The project is expected to be completed by 1991. The number of vocational and trade institutes under the education division is 51, workshops of 30 institutes out of 51 are being supplied with modern equipment.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

There are seven universities in the country including an engineering university and an agriculture university. Two more universities one at Khulna and another at Sylhet will be set up during the current plan period. Work on Shahjalal technical university is rapidly progressing. The number of total university students is 40 thousand. Session jam has been identified as one of the problems in university education. Remarkable progress has been achieved in the development of university education during the current plan. Two halls of 1200 accommodation were set up for Dhaka University; purchase of seven buses, and establishment of 500 kv substation and deep tube well, one hall of Rajshahi university for 400 students another hall of 400 students for the females.

All the development plans, policies and projects under the education sector are aimed at flourishing the identity and establishing the prestige of an independent nation. The main objective of all plans is to integrate the people with the development activities. These are also aimed at earning a dignified place for the nation and the country in the world. In fact, the steps taken in the education sector is leading the nation to the deserved goal.