

## THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

দি বাংলাদেশ অবজারভার

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## UNESCO Assistance For Bangladesh

On the conclusion of his five-day visit to Bangladesh UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow who had led an eight member delegation left Dacca on Tuesday. Before he left he signed an aide-memoire with Bangladesh. Judging by the crucial relevance of the subjects included in it to the development strategy of Bangladesh and the matter-of-factness of approach reflected in it to problems related to various sectors of development—education, science technology and culture—the aide-memoire is a welcome earnest of increasingly fruitful future co-operation between Bangladesh and the UNESCO—within the general UN frame of international co-operation, development of relations, competency and priorities.

Bangladesh welcomes the 'convergence of views' between it and the UNESCO Director General. His visit to Bangladesh has provided it with yet another opportunity of making its desires and role felt as a newly emerged independent country in South Asia, consistently interesting itself in regional and international issues of educational, scientific and cultural co-operation, both inter-regional and global. Bangladesh leaders have affirmed this national goal in all the regional and international forums in which they have participated so far. As a developing country Bangladesh is beset with problems of reconstruction of gigantic proportions. And the problems (as identified area-wise in the aide-memoire) in education, science, technology are pressingly of an infrastructural nature. Over the years Bangladesh's struggle has been persistent in achieving a level of 'indigenous development', through optimum utilization of its resources. And practically in almost all the sectors she has succeeded in going so far as to establish the nuclei. But lack of educational, scientific and technological expertise and advancement remains the chief spoke in the wheel. And

while the need of broadening the base of development through the fulfilment of existing needs in these fields (education, science and technology) is urgent, the lack of appropriate equipment (in the broadest sense of know-how, research, exploration, studies and sophistication) has to be made good on a priority basis to make possible a speedy and smooth go-ahead.

As for aid so far received from U. N. sources including the UNESCO Bangladesh has invested it circumspectly to help work out the development potentials in the relevant fields—a fact that explains the level of improvement noticeable now in the various sectors including the overall economy. Besides, Bangladesh has formulated on its own programmes of training and research in education, science and technology for producing its own experts in them. As a result import of technologies, for instance, from donor-countries could have the advantage of indigenous control to reduce Bangladesh's dependence on import of specialist manpower. It must however be said in this connection that the widest gap in our development strategy is that of appropriate technologies—as well as that of the needed standard of technical and scientific training and expertise. To fill which both long and short term priorities will have to be thought of in the bilateral arrangements with the UNESCO as well as other relevant UN agencies.

The UNESCO D. G.'s five-day stay in Dacca has been very useful bilaterally in that he has been able, through 'business sessions' he has held with the representatives of the various development sectors, to make an on-the-spot assessment of our problems in their proper perspective and of the size of the need for assistance of which we have gratefully received the assurances he has offered.