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Regional confce on education from Dec 9

Preparations are underway for the South and Central Asia Conference on Education for All which is to be held on Dhaka from 9-11 December.

With delegates from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, this conference is one of nine regional and sub-regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Education for All which is due to assemble in Jomtien, Thailand from 5-9 March 1990, says a Unicef press release.

The Dhaka Conference is being organized and sponsored jointly by the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, UNESCO, Asian Development Bank and UNICEF.

Participants at the con-
Contd on page 8 col 3

Education confce

Contd from page 1

ference will exchange national experiences and develop new strategies to ensure Education for All in the region during the 1990s. Major issues, priorities and common strategies arising from the meeting will be referred to the World Conference in Jomtien in March.

Despite the progress of the 1960s and 70s serious problems in the quality, coverage and relevance of basic education now exist. There has been a real decline in education investment in many countries, exacerbated by external debt and adjustment policies.

More than 100 million children of the world today have no access to primary education. More than 900 million men and women are illiterate. More than one-third of the world's adults have no access to knowledge, skills and technologies that could improve the quality of their lives and help them adapt to social and cultural change. Hundreds of thousands of children and adults enter, but do not complete basic education programmes, and many who do complete them still lack fundamental knowledge and skills.