The Bangladesh Times

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Education standards

Investment in education ment in the future and its returns come directions. manifold the national expenditure 1000 crore taka around with the sector receiving one of the highest allocations. President Ershad on more funds Thursday indicated that would be available for education as he was distributing Chancellor's awards to meritorious students at Bangabhaban. since resources are scarce, every But taka spent should contribute to quality of education. There is now a visible. national concern on quality and this is because parents, teachers and other right thinking people have been shocked by a growing trend among a section of student community to copy examination centres and adopt other unfair means. Such practices have defiled the sanctity of national examinations and turned education into a system for churning out graduates who are not interested in studies but in certificates will testify; that they are * which "educated".

It is unfortunate; that there are people who are ready to organize processions demanding the right to adopt unfair means at examinations and sometimes there have been violence and casualties on this issue. In one medical college, for instance, a section of students forced invigilators to allow them to have books during their recent tests.

It is a good sign that public opinion is strongly in favour of tough actions against falling standards of education. The government has taken the first firm step by cancelling several examination centres for the upcoming HSC examination because of their past notoriety in allowing students to copy. This has to be followed up with other steps that go deep into the malaise.

Education Commission The expected to come out with its recommendations on the current curriculum at various levels and reforms in the examination system. Mr Mahbubur Rahman, the Education Minister, said that the recommendations would give direction to the country's education policy in the coming years. On the one hand, the high dropout rate at the primary level has to be checked while, at the same time, quality rather than quantity will be the goal at the advanced levels. The country also requires to produce the skilled manpower on which future progress is so heavily dependent. It is the education system which has to produce these skills. For Bangladesh there is no other way to reach the doors of prosperity except by building up an educated and skilled manpower.