

More Schools For City

The government plan to set up 10 high schools in Dhaka city by December 2003 comes as a welcome piece of news. It is also gratifying to know that the government has decided to finance the project from its own funds. It has been ages since the last government school was set up in the city. By this time the private schooling facilities of varying kinds have come up in an increasing number. Yet they are a poor match for the growing number of school students. These new educational institutions under the management of the government are likely not only to ease the city's admission problem but also bring in a uniform standard of education at the secondary level.

Currently there are 24 government high schools in the city, a few of them more equal than others. Yet the general standard of these schools is superior to that of the majority of the 299 private schools. What is more, the private educational institutions do not often follow the syllabus prescribed by the education board, the standard of teaching does not comply with the set guidelines and the management of the schools leaves much to be desired. Some of them are simply money-spinners in the worst commercial sense.

In a situation like this, establishment of 10 more government schools will act as the restoration of sanity to a certain extent in the area of education in this city. One notable point is that the schools have been qualified with the adjective 'model'. We will hope that they do become a model for other schools. That each parliamentary constituency of the city will have one such school is quite rational too. To be a model school an institution not only has to set a high standard of education but must also build up physical facilities such establishments require. In a congested city like Dhaka it is difficult to find enough space for such schools to house in. Apart from class rooms and administrative buildings, few schools in the city boast a play-ground worth its name, a library, a gymnasium etc. of any standing.

Those facilities are essential because the students need to grow both in mind and body and the vital correlation between the two gets maintained through such facilities for sports and games. We can expect that a sporting nation is also an active one as well. And there is no better time than student life when people must inculcate the virtue of sports and games. We all need breathing space in this city. If the students get it by way of their educational institution, it is all the more welcome.