

## Govt to set-up 20 new polytech institutes

The government has undertaken a massive plan to set up 20 new polytechnic institutes including five for women to introduce need-based technology for enhancing the number of skilled manpower across the country, reports BSS.

Talking to BSS, Director General of the Directorate of Technical Education Prof. Ziaur Rahman on Sunday said the new initiative also includes modernization of the existing 20 polytechnic institutes to cope with the challenges of the new millennium.

Prof. Rahman said the government will provide Tk. 304.25 crore for constructing 15 polytechnic institutes and Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance Tk. 51.38 crore for three women polytechnic institutes.

The Bangladesh government requested IDB for also financing Tk. 37.62 crore for setting up the rest two women institutes. Prof. Rahman said and add that the construction work of the 18 institutes just began this month and expected to be completed in the year 2002.

Referring to the present government's Tk. 2000 crore Perspective Plan for expanding technical education in the light of Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission Report, Prof. Rahman said there is also plan to set up polytechnic institutes in every district, vocational institutes in every thana and provide need-based technical training in every educational institution.

Prof. Rahman said the government is implementing a plan to introduce vocational course in S.S.C. level in 500 private secondary schools and business management course in 200 non-government colleges across the country for developing technically sound human resources.

Explaining new curriculum for the technical education, Prof. Rahman said this new subjects to be introduced include architecture and interior design, information technology, telecommunications, mining and mine-survey, instrumentation and process control, electro medical technology, mechatronics, environmental technology, garments design and pattern making and building maintenance.

Referring to plan of the government to increase technical trained manpower from existing 3.3 per cent to 10 per cent by the year 2000, Prof. Rahman said there is no way to get rid of unemployment without expanding technical education.

More skilled manpower means more remittance, he added.

Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training sources told BSS that Bangladesh earned remittance of 1525.03 million U.S. dollars against manpower export of 3,81,077 in 1997 while 1599.24 million U.S. dollars were earned against the manpower export of 2,67,667 in 1998.

The rate of manpower export increased by 11.98 per cent in 1998 in comparison to the previous year, the Bureau officials said 260.24 million U.S. dollars were remitted against manpower export of 37,381 in January and February of this year.

They said manpower exports include 3.37 per cent professionals, 27.91 per cent skilled, 19.27 per cent semi-skilled and 49.25 per cent unskilled in 1998. Manpower was exported mainly in the Middle Eastern countries, Malaysia, Mauritius, Lebanon, Korea, Singapore and other countries.