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## 10,000 secondary teachers trained on science

Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed on Wednesday said the second phase of "the Secondary Science Education Project (SSEP)" would be undertaken during the Fourth Five-Year Plan period to cover all the 10,000 secondary schools of the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a nine-day national workshop on new directions in secondary science education at the Dr. Ibrahim Memorial Diabetic Centre auditorium at Shahbagh in Dhaka.

The Prime Minister said the first phase of the project, which began in 1985 with the assistance of Asian Development Bank and UNDP and had covered 4000 institutions comprising 3,800 secondary schools and 200 madrasahs, already took a leading role in improving the quality of science education in the country.

He said under the project science buildings had been constructed in about 1700 schools and madrasahs and scientific apparatus, chemicals and books has been supplied to 4,000 institutions. About 10,000 secondary teachers had been given in-service training and nine science development centres are being built on the campuses of nine teachers training colleges to strengthen the training, he added.

The Prime Minister said after completion of the second phase of SSEP it would be possible to introduce science as a compulsory subject for all pupils upto Class X.

Organised by Bangladesh Association for Science Education (BASE) with the cooperation of SSEP and Bangladeshi National Commission for UNESCO, the inaugural session was presided over by the Education Secretary A.N.M. Eusuf.

Mr. Hedayet Ahmed, Director, Principal Regional Office of UNESCO for Asia Pacific in Bangkok, Dr. A.M. Sharfuddin, Workshop Director and Chief Consultant, SSEP, Dr. A.K.M. Shamsuddoha, Director, SSEP, Mr. Muhammad Ali, General Secretary, BASE and Mr. Abdus Selim, Secretary, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO also addressed the session.