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Uplift, technology to be coordinated under FFYP

By A Staff Reporter

The Fourth Five-Year Plan is being drafted under a long-term perspective plan for the first time for coordination between development and technology plannings.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the recently concluded forum on technology planning for industrialisation in Bangladesh Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said planning under the perspective plan will make consideration of technological aspects easier in the future.

The Education Minister said the science and technology division will play a pioneering role in drafting plans based on technology. He said the initiatives will include determination of the demand and capacity of different sectors for

mation of technology evaluation committees of different ministries, measures for technology forecasting, setting up of science and technology information bank, technology schedule, training of officials responsible for technology planning and contract research programmes. He said the forum has identified adult education, vocational training and distance education as the programmes to be geared up for creation of skilled manpower.

The forum which was participated by 83 experts, government officials and business representatives from home and abroad recommended venture capital and risk capital from the Ministry of Finance for industries based on locally innovated technologies.

The Minister said the science

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Development, technology

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and technology division has taken up a project for adoption of a technology planning for establishment of electronics and small and cottage industries with assistance from Asian Development Bank.

He said the science and technology division alone cannot ensure saturation of technology planning with development planning. He said the forum has specified the responsibilities of the Planning Commission, External Resources division, ministries of finance, commerce, education and manpower in this regard and representatives of those organisations present in the forum gave ascent to the recommendations.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam said experts from Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia discussed different aspects of technology based development planning in those countries and the forum stressed the need for drafting a technology planning for Bangladesh as per its own model in the light of experiences in those countries.

Replying a question the Education Minister said the science and technology division of the government may be raised to the status of a ministry, if necessary, to expedite technological development. He said the executive committee of National Council for Science and Technology has already decided on principle to bring the Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), House Building Research Institute (HBRI) and Environment Pollution Control Directorate under the purview of the Science and Technology Division.

He said the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has assured all help for the ad-

vancement of technology in Bangladesh.

OPEN VARSITY

He told a questioner that the proposed Bangladesh open university will be established in Dhaka as soon as possible. A British expert team will soon visit Dhaka to help draft a project proposal, he said.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the government now put emphasis on science and technology and the academic planning of Khulna University has been made in keeping with that policy. He said departments of biotechnology, genetics, oceanography, forestry, electronics and wood technology will be set up at Khulna University. There will also be subjects like business administration and pure science, he said.

Secretary of Science and Technology Division Ahmed Farid also spoke on the occasion Dr. K. F. Jalal, Chief of Industry and Environment Division of Escap, Dr. Shamsher Ali, Dr Nurul Islam of Buet and officials of education and information ministries were present at the press briefing session at the Bangladesh Secretariat.