

78 m IDA aid for primary education

Bangladesh will continue its lower cost school construction efforts to achieve universal designs and a more efficient primary education by the year 2000 with the help of an SDR 80.1 million dollars 78 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA) the World Bank resident Mission in Dhaka said on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The project is designed to improve and expand primary school facilities and to develop an integrated teacher training system. It will also improve the quality of instruction by reforming the primary teacher training programme updating the curriculum, and increasing the supply of instructional materials and textbook the press release said.

Cost-saving measures will be introduced, such as the use of

teacher salary costs will be reduced by using teachers more efficiently, and by expanding project impact, a low-cost experimental instruction programme that uses teachers to coordinate the work of community participants.

The project also aims to improve the management and administration of the primary school system by strengthening the Directorate of Primary Education in the Ministry of Education. A project support communications system will be developed and the overall flow of management information improved.

By 1991, enrollments are ex-

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IDA aid

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pected to increase by about 740,000, of which 400,000 or 50 per cent will be female students. As a result of the project, the dropout rate of more than 50 per cent is expected to decline considerably.

The project will have a total cost of dollars 103.4 million besides the IDA credit, parallel financing in the form of grants is being provided by the United Nations Development Programme (dollars 2.3 million), UNICEF (dollars 4.9 million), and the Swedish International Development Agency (dollars 2.2 million). The government of Bangladesh will finance the remainder of the costs.