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## Focus on 4 yrs Top priority to education

A Times Special

The present Government has given top priority to the education sector. Over the last few years serious efforts have been made to bring about significant improvement at various levels of education. A large number of educational institutions have been brought under the development programme and a considerable number of such institutions have been brought under government control. As a result of these efforts the expenditure on education, both revenue and development, has increased considerably.

The government's concern for education not only over two years but also as a long-term policy is to ensure individual's right to education, to develop human resources and to provide means of self-reliance.

conomic development of the nation. The 1985-86 budget allocated a total of 515.48 crore takas for education and culture which accounts for 15.50 per cent of the total revenue expenditure of the country.

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## Education

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Never before so much money was made available for the nation's educational and cultural development.

In the Third Five-Year Plan (TFYP), creation of physical facilities to 70 per cent children of primary age-group has been envisaged. This has been done to emphasise retention of students in the schools and to help avoid wastage. During

the past few years the scheme of supplying text books to the learners has acted as a direct incentive to the students and their parents. During the Plan period provision of adequate facilities for science teaching has been made in the non-government educational institutions in the rural areas. To finance this programme generous provision of scholarships will be made on local, regional, national and sex basis. During the next five years training programmes for primary school teachers will be organised at upazila and school levels and in-service training for secondary school teachers will be arranged under this scheme. This will be in addition to normal training programme in the primary training institutes and technical training centres.

According to the TFYP, self-employment opportunities to the people in the countryside will be provided through non-formal vocational training in the community schools. Besides industrial attachment programme for practical training will be organised for technical students. Enrolment of girl stu-

dents will be encouraged during the Plan period and mass education programme will be localised at upazila level.

Primary education continues to receive top priority in the programme of the education sector. For smooth implementation of the programme administration of primary education has been centralised. To make decentralisation effective and to ensure greater participation of the community, construction and repair of primary schools will be undertaken by upazila parishads.

The objective of the primary education during the TFYP period will be to enrol 11.6 lakh children of the primary age-group by 1990 so that the universal primary education may be achieved before 2000 A.D. The Plan will feature involvement of the community in management and administration of the schools by forming teacher-parent associations at the school level. At the university level more financial allocations have been planned.