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Community schools

For the first time in Bangladesh, community school project has been launched. Sixtytwo such projects started working last week in different parts of the country. The number is to reach 92 by next June, and by the year end it will be 200. Designed to function simultaneously as centres of education and development, the community schools are to be run on an experimental basis for four years. In each thana, one boys' and another girls' high school will be selected to constitute the community unit. These units will be gradually linked up with the community learning centres which are being opened in primary schools. And the centres are then to be turned into meeting places of village people and development functionaries.

Inaugurating formally a community school project at Mirzapur in Tangail on Monday, Education Minister, Dr. Abdul Majeed Khan, said that the projects were aimed at the progressive transformation of the educational institutions into the nucleus of learning and development in the locality to support speedy and integrated development of the rural people. These would open up avenues for technical and vocational education and training for both the students and the villagers, and help bring education closer to practical life. We also believe that if the community school units and learning centres grow in an integrated manner under the project, they would not only make the programme of rural education, literacy and vocational training profitable for the millions of our masses, but also promote the cause and method of education and instruction to be meaningful and fruitful. It is possible that the entire programme will open a new chapter in life in our 68 thousand villages. Education would then be viewed and taken as the means to the socio-economic and cultural progress of the country.

While we do hope that the community school programme will succeed throughout the country, we also like to caution all concerned against the consequences of failures. The Education Minister has rightly asked all to guard against possible failures and learn from past mistakes and lapses. In other words, all must put their best in making the projects a success everywhere. For that, the people must be so enthused that they take interest and active part in their functioning. Secondly, it is very important that any possible misuse and malpractice about funds and other materials under the projects should be avoided by all means.