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29/8/78

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# The Bangladesh Times

## National science library to be set up SOON

A national science library with an ultimate target of about one million reference volumes will be established shortly to meet the future demands of scientists and technologists, in conformity with the national development.

In an interview with BSS Prof. M. Innes Ali, Member, Planning Commission, in-charge of Science, Technology and Education, said that the President has directed the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) to prepare a scheme of the library within one month.

Prof. Ali, who is also executive Vice-Chairman of the NCST, said that a seven-member committee with Dr. Ahmed Shamsul Islam, Prof. of Botany, Dacca University, as its convener has already been formed to prepare the scheme. The committee includes two experts in library science, three senior scientists, one architect and one expert from the Planning Commission.

Prof. Ali said that the library will start functioning immediately at the National Science and Technological Documentation Centre, (Bansdoc) in the Science Laboratories premises in Dacca and will utilise facilities of Bansdoc as a base for the library.

He said that during the two-year Interim Plan period (1978-80) the library will buy reference books and journals worth about Taka 40 lakh to meet immediate requirements of the scientists and the technologists. After completion of site selection, land aquisition and design construction of the library building are also expected to start during the interim plan period, Prof. Ali said.

He said that during the Five-Year Plan Period (1980-85) construction of the building will be completed and targeted books and journals acquired.

Prof. Innes Ali said that this will be a central depository and lending library and equipped to feed a library, information and documentation service throughout the country. It will subscribe to all the leading scientific and technological journals and periodicals in the world and act as a focal point for international and regional information and documentation services.

At present there are more than 50 specialised libraries in the country in different fields of science and technology social science and culture attached to different universities research and development institutes supporting technical facilities development boards industrial corporations technical departments engineering medical and agricultural colleges with a total number of about 1.2 million volumes.

BANSDOC procures and produces world-wide published science and technological literature and perform bibliography compilation translation and other services. Besides the BANSDOC there are information and documentation units attached to the libraries of Atomic Energy Commission, Agricultural Research Council, Medical Research Council, Dacca University, Chittagong University and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

## Science library

(Continued from page 1)

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