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NTRAMS a crowning example of inventive pursuit

Natural ability for creativity coupled with earnest endeavours can bring crowning glory to inventive pursuit, writes BSS correspondent Shahjahan Mia.

Abdul Mannan Sarker, Director of the National Training and Research Academy for Multilingual Shorthand (NTRAMS) in Bogra is one such person whose years of intensive research and hard work combined with creative skill helped him bring about a revolution in the domain of shorthand and invent its multilingual version in Bengali, English and Arabic.

His unique invention stemming from the needs of creating a skilled manpower by imparting technical education to a vast multitude of the populous Bangladesh has been widely acclaimed at home and abroad.

In 1982 he started teaching his invented method of shorthand to some students and journalists first and built the multilingual training centre on a small scale which formed the nucleus of the present-day NTRAMS.

Extensive coverage and publicity of his feat by the national and international media drew everybody's attention. After examining the pros and cons and considering the needs of technical education, the government accorded recognition to the institution on September 24, 1983.

After carrying on with the activities of the training centre temporarily at Bogra Titu Auditorium, Mr Sarker realised that the organisation can play a great role in giving technical education to the people.

With a view to opening up new prospect and potentiality he plunged himself into materialising his task and three acres of land was taken for the construction of a building at the southern end of Bogra town, near Jahangirabad Cantonment.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the NTRAMS building on

February 15, 1992. The government sanctioned Taka five crore and fifty lakh for smooth completion of the academy building under the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

The NTRAMS came into being at a time when computer and software technology have conquered the whole world and the sophisticated technology has made its way into every office and even every house of the affluent people in Bangladesh.

Buoyed by the success of his invention in shorthand, Mr Sarker turned his eyes towards computer. He then took the software system as his main means of producing skilled manpower so vitally needed for a country like ours.

Starting its journey with only few Apple Mac computers, the NTRAMS computer section is now recognised as the largest computer training centre in the country. It has now 120 computer sets of different types including multi-media network.

Government will soon introduce internet system through V-sat. Internet gives one the option of communicating with any Internet user in the world. One has the choice of selecting the required software from an array of softwares around the world. To link up with Internet means entering the vast global computer network with one's tiny computer set.

"Keep the computers cool to ensure their safety is misconception", said Mr Sarker. Computers do not require a very cool atmosphere, they require a dust-free condition, he stressed.

Besides imparting training to the educated unemployed and unskilled people, the aim and purpose of the academy is to confer diploma-in-commerce degree (equivalent to HSC) in multilingual shorthand as a technical education and upgrade the academy into a university in phases.

The objectives of the academy among others are: To train up gov-

ernment and non-government officials and employees for increasing their efficiency and quality of work. To develop secretarial science including multilingual shorthand through research and training and help acquire wide knowledge on computer science.

To ensure wider participation of women in the programme and make the country self-sufficient in secretarial science by establishing training centres at regional levels.

Expansion of high-tech and help acquire wider knowledge and efficiency in computer science and earn the much needed foreign exchange through skilled manpower export.

Besides its normal academic functions, the institute also offers training to many government and non-government officials and employees, bank and police officials and educated unemployed youths. By now 320 university and college teachers, 90 senior police officials and 170 officials of the BCS administration cadre have received training from the academy. A total of 1200 employees from military service, non-government offices, directorates and ministries were also given training.

Born in 1953 in Ramshahar of Bogra sadar thana, Abdul Mannan Sarker actively participated in the Liberation War and served under Mujibnagar Government. He had his diploma-in-commerce in 1970 and also did his graduation later from the Rajshahi University. He was once private secretary to Dr Akhter Hamid Khan. Bangladesh Government also arranged higher education for this gifted man from abroad to help him in his research work.

Talking about NTRAMS, a proud creation in the country, Mr Sarker said "my aim is to bring in technological development in shorthand and computer science. I believe, I will succeed in my mission facing all odds coming in its way".