

## Allocation in edn sector to be raised

Staff Correspondent

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam on Tuesday disclosed that the allocation in education sector would be raised significantly in the Fourth Five-year Plan of the country beginning next July.

Briefing newsmen on the just concluded three-day Central and South Asian Conference on 'Education for all' Sheikh Shahidul Islam said that the present Government was committed to ensure education for all. He informed that law would be made for universal primary education in the country and the programme would be launched in 1991. He asserted that the next decade would be dedicated for spreading education to all.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam who was the Chairman of the Central and

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South Asian Conference on 'Education for all' participated by seven Ministers and two Secretaries from seven SAARC countries and Iran and Afghanistan, expressed satisfaction over the deliberations and outcome of the conference, first of its kind in Bangladesh. He said that the conference unanimously agreed on ten points for adopting in the charter of the world conference on education for all to be held at Jomtein in Thailand next March. The ten points included the two proposals suggested by Bangladesh for women education and non-formal education, he added.

The Education Minister observed that the successful hosting of the high-level international conference on education the image of Bangladesh had been enhanced. He disclosed that President Ershad was invited as one of the ten heads of state to address the world conference on education in Thailand.

Replying to a question, the Education Minister hoped that by the year 2000, the target for 60 per cent functional adult literacy, could be achieved. He however, admitted that during the third Five-year Plan the target for adult education rate was not attained as the programme was launched late. He said that the literacy programme at different upzila level had been extended to boost the literacy rate.

In reply to a question, the Education Minister expressed concern over the deterioration in the quality of education and the corrupt practices in examinations. He also pointed out the existing drop out per centage in the school level as high and he stressed the need to reduce this figure. He appreciated the reports published in different national dailies on examination malpractices.