

BUILDINGS OF EDN INSTITUTIONS

# Govt mulls master plan

*Univs to have swimming pools, girls' hostels need to have beauty parlour*

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THE education ministry is going to ask all educational institutions to develop a master plan for the construction of new buildings, keeping facilities like motion sensor switches for the washroom, staircase area and playground.

The ministry is also planning to ask all educational institutions to keep designated areas for library, laboratory, auditorium and health centre, and for universities to provide swimming pools and laundry rooms at all hostels, and beauty parlors at girl's hostels.

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'We are at the final stage of preparing a circular. You need certain facilities to ensure better educational institutions,' said education secretary Nazrul Islam Khan.

It has been observed that authorities of educational institutions construct buildings without a plan. Land at educational institutions remain unutilised due to the absence of the plan, said the draft circular.

There should be a master plan for each educational institution. Schools, colleges, madrassahs and universities should follow the master plan while constructing new buildings, said the draft.

There are 37,265 schools, colleges, madrassahs and universities in the country now.

While preparing the master plan and design of the new building, authorities should ensure that the last floor of the building be built in a bungalow format using green or red tiles, keeping an option for planting trees, for beatification, and so that it is easily identified as the building of an educational institution, the draft said.

It also asked authorities to preserve ponds (if any), rare and endangered plants, facilities for safe drinking water, store room, facilities like motion sensor switches for the washroom, staircase area and keeping playground space.

It asked authorities to have solar panel where power connection is not available. The draft circular had asked universities to keep place for swimming pools, kitchen corner, laundry corner at all hostels and beauty parlours at ladies hostel.

'We had asked universities to keep place for swimming pools for providing students swimming lessons and beauty parlours at female hostels as these facilities are common at female hostels of foreign countries,' said Nazrul.

A section of education officials and teachers however were skeptical about proper implementation of the master plan as it will be expensive.

'Implementation of master plan would be expensive but we have to aim higher, we cannot stay behind on others countries,' he said.