

4,500 new primary schools by July

Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed on Monday urged the education officials to work for the success of the Compulsory Primary Education Programme, imbued with the spirit of patriotism and out of their responsibility for the posterity, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a conference of the field-level officials of the Directorate of Education at the auditorium of the National Museum, the Prime Minister said with the success of the programme a new vista would be opened up before the nation.

The conference has been convened to work out strategies for implementation of the programme, beginning January next.

Kazi Zafar said the issue before the

conference was the most important and significant for the nation and added "we cannot afford to lose in our war against illiteracy, either we have to be victorious or we perish".

The Prime Minister underlined the need for reaching a national consensus on introducing a new education system for meeting the present day requirement.

Adviser to the President on Primary Education Mansur Ali Sarkar, Education Secretary A.N.M. Yusuf and Director General of the Primary Education Abul Hussain also addressed the inaugural session.

The Prime Minister said 4,500 new primary schools would be built by July.

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Pry schools

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next year to facilitate the successful implementation of the programme.

He said the premises of the existing 76,000 academic institutions would be used for executing the programme through introducing double and morning shifts in high schools and Madrasas. Part-time teachers would be appointed from the existing teaching staffs to conduct the extra shifts.

150-member cell

The Prime Minister said a 150-member cell at the Ministry of Education, to be headed by himself, would centrally coordinate the programme and each member of the cell be in-charge of three upazilas.

He said another cell to be headed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Education would supervise the implementation. The District Coordination Committee would be headed by Ministers and the respective Deputy Commissioners would act as secretaries. The Deputy Commissioners will also act as head of the implementation cells. Similarly the upazila coordination committee will be headed by a local MP and the Upazila Education Official will act as secretary. The implementation cell at the upazila level will be headed by Upazila Chairman.

The Union Coordination Committee will be headed by Union Parishad Chairman. Public representatives, teachers, social workers and elite will also be incorporated in the union and ward level committees.

The Prime Minister directed the officials to help form the committees after they go back to their respective place of work and motivate people from all walks of life to actively participate in the implementation of the programme.

Mr. Mansur Ali Sarkar said the programme for compulsory primary education taken up by the present government was just not a routine thing.