

Ministry for primary edn planned

The government is going to set up an independent Ministry on Primary Education headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with an objective to remove the curse of illiteracy from the country. Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman said in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at this office, Mr. Rahman said the Planning Ministry had already advised the Prime Minister in this regard to bring a revolutionary change in the prim-

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Ministry

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ary education.

He said the way late President Ziaur Rahman had led the rural development activities in the country, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would also lead the nation to get rid of illiteracy.

Mr. Rahman said, under the programme all the school-going children would be enrolled in the primary school within the next three years.

He said intensive trainings would be imparted to the primary teachers and all the vacant posts of the primary teachers would be filled in as soon as possible.

Answering a question, he said, local committees comprising people of the area would be set up to monitor the functioning of the primary schools.

He said at present there were 42,000 primary schools in the country where over four lakh teachers were employed.

The Finance Minister said out of 1.4 billion dollar requirement Dhaka had already received 435 million dollar assistance both in cash and kind after the cyclone struck the country.

He said an amount equivalent to 300 million dollar would be mobilised from the domestic resources for the purpose.

Mr. Rahman said the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme had been divided into three terms—short, medium and long.

He said an amount of 621 million dollar would be needed for the implementation of short-term programme while 369 million dollar for medium term and 794 million dollar for long term.

Replying to a question the Finance Minister said the Geneva meeting was not an aid pledging meeting but the donors' presence would demonstrate their interest to help us.

He said almost all the donors were expected to attend the meeting to be presided over by French Minister of State for Humanitarian action Bernard Kouchner.

The Finance Minister said the meeting would also provide an opportunity to project the democratically elected BNP government's programme on social development, economic and institutional reforms upholding democracy and rule of law.

Answering a question he said the international aid climate was getting tough as more countries including India and China were now seeking foreign aid.

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