

World Literacy / Literacy Day Day observed

International Literacy Day was observed all over the country on Friday with a call to impart knowledge of alphabets to all unlettered citizens, reports ENA.

The day observed every year at the call of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on September 8 is marked by seminars, symposium and workshops highlighting the efforts, as well as, the ways and means for freeing the world from the curse of illiteracy.

In Dacca, Bangladesh Swakshara Samity (Bangladesh Association for Literacy) and Bangladesh National Cooperative Union organised two separate seminars in observance of the day.

Speakers taking part in these seminars stressed the need for a country wide mass literacy drive. They suggested that there should be universal and compulsory primary education simultaneously with informal education programme to realise the goal of mass literacy in the country.

The Minister for Manpower Development and Social Welfare was the chief guest at the seminar sponsored by the Swakshara Samity.

Presided over by Mr. Obaidul Huq, Editor, the Bangladesh Observer, the seminar was also participated by Mr. Anthony Drexler, Secretary for South and South-East Asia of the Family Planning International Assistance (FPIA), Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Director, Social Welfare; Dr. Osman Gani, Secretary General of the association.

Mr. S. A. Bari AT taking part in the discussion said Government is determined to eradicate illiteracy from the

He stressed that educated people particularly the youth should come forward to make the drive a success. He regretted that intellectuals of the country, although conscious,

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were showing indifference to the problem.

Mr. Obaidul Huq said, an educated manpower is the driving force behind the national development programme of a country. Education is also the key to physical, material and spiritual development of individuals.

Mr. Anthony Drexler said, knowledge of alphabets among the common people will not only develop the manpower of Bangladesh, but also help contain population explosion.

Dr. Shelly pointed out that an education system which can not ensure livelihood does not appeal the people. So mass literacy drive should be launched with have importance to job oriented education.

Dr. Osman Gani stressed the need for universal and compulsory primary education in order to spread literacy among the younger generations.

COOPERATIVE UNION

Captain (Retd) Abdul Halim Choudhury, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives on Friday called upon the cooperative societies to build up an effective movement for eradicating illiteracy from the country.

He was speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh National Cooperative Union (BNCU) in observance of the International Illiteracy Day at Samabaya Sadhan in Dacca.

Presided over by Mr. Ali Hossain, President of the BNCU, the meeting was also addressed by Mr. Abul Hasan Abdul Hye, Additional Registrar of the Cooperatives, A. K. M. Jahirul Huq, Chief Executive Officer of the BNCU, Moklesur Rahman Choudhury, President of Bangladesh Shilpa Samabaya Samity, Mrs. Nurjahan Zaman, member of the BNCU and Mrs. Kanij Majid, member of the Dacca District Cooperative Union.