

Remove curse of illiteracy : Sattar

# Use of Bengali at all levels stressed

President Abdus Sattar on Sunday called for removing the curse of illiteracy from the society to realise the dream of the martyrs of the Language Movement, reports BSS.

Speaking at a discussion meeting on "Shahid Day" at the Ramna Green, the President pointed out that unless every citizen of the country could be made literate at least with some Bengali education, it would be difficult to attain national progress.

Organised by the Bangladesh Jatiyotabadi Dal, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by the BNP Secretary General, Prof A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. T. H. Khan, Vice-Chairman of the BNP, Kazi Golam Mahboob and Chairman of the Jatiyotabadi Mohila Dal, Mrs Amina Rahman.

Poet Al-Mahmood President of the Bangladesh Jatiyotabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha, recited a self-composed poem at the function.

President Sattar called upon the educated section of the society to utilise their leisure time to give the illiterate people some light of education. "Only in this way we can discharge our responsibility towards our mother-tongue", he added.

The President emphasised the need for use of Bengali language at all levels of the national life and said that the bottlenecks on the way of doing so should be removed to establish the language in its rightful place.

Recalling the history of the Language Movement, President Sattar said that it was in 1956. Bengali was constitutionally recognised as one of the state languages of the then Pakistan. Trailing the path of the movement, Bangladesh

achieved independence in 1971, he added.

He paid deep respect to those who laid down their lives to establish the right of their mother-tongue and said that Bangladesh was the only country in the sub-continent where the mother-tongue of the hundred per cent of its population was Bengali. He called for improving the language to make it an internationally acceptable one.

The President stressed the need for writing books on science medicine, engineering and law in easy Bengali for the students of the higher classes.

## Prof. B. Chowdhury

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury stressed the need for using simple Bengali words and said we must shun narrowness and open the door for enriching it through accepting the commonly used words of foreign languages.

He said the time had come to re-evaluate our achievements and failures in respect of materialising the hopes and aspirations of the martyrs of the historic Language Movement and added that though in many respects we failed, significant achievements in some fields should also be noted.

Pointing to the problems on the way of establishing Bengali at all levels and spheres of national life, Prof Chowdhury said we must identify the antagonistic forces and combat those elements.

He said a section of people at the higher levels of national life and another category of people who were involved in keeping the language difficult and beyond the understanding ability of the common masses constituted the main hindrances on the way of proper application of Bengali language in the country.

He regretted that about eight crore people of the country were still illiterate and said unless they were given light of education, the hopes for materialising the objectives of the Language Movement would remain unfulfilled.

Mr. T. H. Khan said without a language it would be difficult to consolidate the independence and sovereignty of the nation and urged the people to eliminate all sorts of malpractices, frustrations and chaos from the education sector.

He said the future generation must be brought up as the worthy citizens through proper education which would make them conscious of their duties and responsibilities towards the nation.

Referring to the invaluable contributions of the martyrs of the Language Movement in the struggle of the nation for the

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## Use of Bengali

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rights of self-determination which ultimately culminated in the independence. Mr. Khan said attempts must be made to disseminate knowledge through Bengali in the educational institutions.