

## Bangladesh among some Islamic states with low literacy

By A Staff Reporter

It is unfortunate that the literacy situation in some of the Islamic countries including Bangladesh remains alarmingly low although Islam laid the highest importance on education.

This was observed at the three-day meeting of literacy and adult education officials held in Dhaka last week.

The meeting organized by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) in collaboration with Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO was attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Gambia, Maldives, Pakistan and different international and non-governmental organisations.

Speakers at the working sessions stressed that political commitment and honest will was essential for the success in literacy programme.

Learning and teaching materials should include topics that are relevant to daily life activities of the people, they said.

The speakers also suggested that the curricula of literacy programme can be as varied and diversified as the learners themselves depending on the needs of the learners.

The meeting observed that literacy programmes generally are not adequately funded.

The meeting recommended to set aside a portion of the Zakat Fund or levy some additional tax

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## Low literacy

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such as Iqra surcharge for the literacy programme. It was also proposed by the ISESCO in its special Islamic programme for literacy and basic training for all Islamic countries and communities.

Special emphasis was given on the promotion of literacy among the female members as they constitute the single largest group among the illiterate population.

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