

World Literacy Day observed Call to make 'Education For All' by 2000 a success

By A Staff Reporter

The International Literacy Day was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world Tuesday with a call to make "Education For All" by the Year 2000, a success.

On the occasion in separate messages, President Abdur Rahman Biswas called upon all concerned to extend their sincere cooperation to government efforts for removing literacy while Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for creating mass awareness, in every nook and corner for freeing Bangladesh from the curse of illiteracy.

The day's programme included discussion meeting and colourful processions.

BSS adds: Newspapers published special supplements and Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh put out special programmes highlighting the day.

Inaugurating a discussion on "Education For All" organised by the Ministry of Education and the Primary and Mass Education Division, Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar said the government was determined to eradicate illiteracy from the country by the year 2000.

He said it was possible to do

Contd. on page 8 col. 3

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Contd. from page 1

so with joint and concerted efforts of the people and assistance of UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank.

Mr. Sircar said late President Ziaur Rahman had initiated the countrywide mass education programme for eradicating illiteracy but the programme was suspended overnight with the arrival of the autocratic regime in 1982.

Presided over by Secretary in-charge of Primary and Mass Education Division, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, Education Secretary Shafiqul Alam, Executive Director of Integrated Non-formal Education Programme Prof. S.M. Saifuddin and Secretary of UNESCO National Commission Begum Tauhida Farooqi.

Principal Eunus Khan suggested undertaking literacy programme as a social movement. He said programme should be launched simultane-

ously throughout the country to achieve the desired goal.

The Education Secretary said a draft plan was being prepared for mass-education programme and sustaining enrolment in primary schools to achieve literacy for all by the year 2000.

Prof. Saifuddin said the government had introduced integrated non-formal education in 43 thanas in May this year, while the NGOs had started the programme in another 100 thanas.

Speakers at another discussion arranged by National Association of UNESCO Clubs, Bangladesh (NAUCB), said nationalist spirit along with an intensive action-oriented programme can eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000 despite the resources constraint.

Presided over by NAUCB President and noted journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the function was addressed by Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Education Eunus Khan, Director of Bangladesh

Bureau of Educational Statistics Anwarul Haq Khan, Mir Ramzan Ali and Prof. M.A. Matin of Chittagong University.

Terming human beings as the best resource for the development of the country, Mr. Noman called for spreading education with a view to making the population skilled to attain desired goal of development.

Mr. Gias Kamal Chowdhury said a properly guided motivational planning is required to achieve the desired goal of literacy.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised a rally, discussion and display of educational equipment to observe the day.

The mission brought a colourful procession from the National Museum in the morning which terminated at the National Press Club. Children with placards inscribed with various slogans on education held a rally there. Boys and girls coming from different parts of the country participated in the rally.

The mission, in the after-

noon, held discussion and display of educational equipment

at the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka.

Speaking at the discussion, Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar underscored the need for coordination between the government and NGOs programmes for spreading education. He called for creating awareness among the people for implementing education programme.

Presided over by SM Al Hosani, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, Education Secretary Shafiqul Alam, and Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Winston Temple. Rector of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Teachers Training College Mohammad Sirajul Islam read out the keynote paper highlighting the importance of the day.

Bangladesh Girl Guides Association observed the World Literacy Day by holding group discussions on various aspects of the day.