

50 pc literacy by 1987

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Education Minister Dr. Abd. Majeed Khan on Thursday reiterated the Government's firm determination to ensure 50 per cent literacy rate within five years ending 1987 and "rehabilitate education" in the country, reports BSS.

Giving call to all concerned to make concerted efforts with a missionary zeal Dr. Khan said the Government had been extending all assistance for increasing enrolment in all the classes from one to five with a view to creating a solid foundation of literacy which would ensure developments in other sectors.

Addressing the upgraded thana education officers of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions at the Shikkha Bhaban in Dhaka on Thursday afternoon the Minister asked them to play the "pioneering role" in this regard with devotion and dedication.

The Education Minister said each year since the independence the nation had been spending millions of Taka for the expansion of education, but no significant headway was made so far and added even this year the Government has been spending about 59 crore Taka for the development of primary education alone.

Asking the officers to work with more devotion and sincerity, Dr. Khan said a movement for educating the future generations was a vital need for the day and added "we cannot sim-

ply allow the sustenance of the present condition of deterioration in the sphere of education."

Dr. Khan said the hard-earned resources made available for the encouragement of the children and expansion of education must be properly utilised and cautioned the concerned persons that if the plan for ensuring 50 per cent literacy rate by 1987 failed, the nation would lag behind for another ten years "No nation can prosper without education," he said.

Dr. Khan asked the officers of the upgraded thanas to develop their respective thanas as models of expanding literacy base and to turn the primary schools as the get-together centres of the villages by developing parents-teachers-students associations following the community learning centre project which are being implemented by the present Government phase-wise.

Emphasising the need for accurate information and data on the actual requirement of the text-books and equipment for the students and primary schools respectively, the Minister said, the Government could not afford further wastage of the resources being allocated for these purposes.

The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Hafeez Ahmed, Director General of Primary Education and Dr. Obaidullah, Director General of Universal Primary Education Project.