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MASS MOVEMENT FOR LITERACY VITAL

TONGI, July 21 (BSS) : Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed today said a great mass awakening was an imperative to organise a vigorous social movement for economic and social emancipation of the nation.

He was addressing a big rally of primary school teachers, secondary and madrasa teachers, public representatives and government officials at Tongi High School ground.

Presided over by President of Bangladesh Primary School Teacher Association Prof Abul Kalam Azad, Adviser to the President on Primary Education Alhaj Mansoor Ali Sarkar, Ghazipur District Council Chairman Hassan Uddin Sarkar, MP and UNICEF representative to Bangladesh Mr Cole P Dodge also spoke on the occasion.

The four hour rally was attended by the teachers of over 500 primary schools, 140 secondary schools, and a good number of

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Literacy vital

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ebtedayee madrasas.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the whole nation would unitedly eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country as they stood like a solid rock to conquer all meseries and devastations caused by a series of catastrophic natural calamities in the past. He said the government of President Ershad was committed to launch a movement like "crusade" to make the historic compulsory primary education programme a success.

The Prime Minister said we had no option but come out successful in this programme vital for the nation's survival.

"We cannot afford to fail", he added.

He said the nation was expecting the members of the teaching community to be the first ranking crusaders in the movement. He said people of this region had an inherent liking for knowledge and went into say, one Atish Deepankar carried the candle of light of education to Thailand, Japan and finally China. We have to regain our lost glory and heritage, he added.

Mr Mansoor Ali Sarkar called upon all concerned to sincerely contribute to reach the light of education to all and thereby make the hard earned freedom meaningful.

UNICEF representative Cole P. Dodge said not only getting the children in schools, retain them in schools was all the more important.