

Officials asked to gear up literacy campaign

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Saturday called upon the Additional Deputy Commissioners in charge of literacy to further gear up the adult literacy campaign by frequent visits to rural areas and contact with voluntary organisations already operating in the villages, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of the ADC's at the Directorate of Public Instructions conference room in Dacca.

Shah Aziz said that mass education movement was a very cherished programme of Late President Ziaur Rahman. He said 'we are determined to fulfil his (Zia's) dream and free the country from the curse of illiteracy by the end of 1985.'

He reiterated that government was firmly resolved to implement the programme within

the target period.

The Prime Minister said, 'by now we have provided functional literacy to 30 lakh men and women.' He said that a separate directorate had also been set up for the purpose. In accordance with the last wishes of the Late President. He said, 'we have decided to set up one library in every village equipped with reading materials and radio set.

Shah Aziz observed that government's efforts alone could not remove illiteracy. It needs dedicated efforts from all consciously and enlightened sections of the people like teachers, retired government officials, students, youth clubs, women welfare workers, elected representatives of the people, Gram Sarkars, Village Defence Party, he said. He directed the ADC's to submit to his secretariat fortnightly reports on the progress of the literacy drive. He said that the government had also made arrangements for provide training to voluntary teachers.

The Prime Minister hoped that the day-long meeting, would review the progress of the adult literacy programme, draw course of action at the field level and make recommendations in respect of future policies to be implemented.