

09 SEP. 1989
82

World Literacy Day

THE World Literacy Day was observed yesterday. The day holds a special significance for developing countries like Bangladesh which are still struggling in the mire of illiteracy. Bangladesh, along with other countries, observes the day in a befitting manner pledging the nation's serious endeavour to increase literacy as fast as possible. This is an occasion to seriously evaluate the nations progress on this front and to determine the strategies to be followed.

About literacy it may perhaps be said that it is not just an aspect of development, it is development itself. The role of literacy would therefore hardly bear re-emphasising. Our national statistics on literacy continue to be as depressing as ever. Any gains in literacy in recent decades have been to a considerable extent offset by the galloping population and consequently while percentage-wise the rate of literacy has improved only slightly, in numerical terms the country has more illiterates now than twenty years ago. Clearly the spread of literacy is going to be an uphill task. In the past some confusion had