

Education may meet practical needs

The education system, the Government was contemplating to introduce would be framed incorporating the ideals of nationalism, religion, humanitarian and cultural values and also practical needs of the day, Minister for Education and Religious Affairs Dr Abdul Majeed Khan stated this while addressing a Sceratunnabi conference in Dhaka on Saturday evening.

Dr Khan said the cardinal principles of the policy would

be to ensure education for all the children below 11 through universal primary education in the first phase. 'This would be eventually extended upto the age of 14 in the second phase' the Minister added.

The students above the age of 14 would be given employment-oriented education 'which would have avenues for pursuing higher studies' and doing research Dr Khan said.

Turning to the teachings of Islam Dr Khan said the first lesson to the Muslims from the Almighty Allah was to learn.

But the Muslims now constituted the largest segment of the world population suffering from the curse of illiteracy, the minister observed.

Dr Khan stressed the need for following the invaluable teachings of the Holy Prophet (Sm) and said the conflict between practical life and the les-

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sons of religion must be 'eliminated'.

Describing Bangladesh as the second largest Muslim country in the world the Minister said 'unfortunately we cannot shoulder the responsibilities bestowed upon us'. If the nation followed the teachings of Islam, the condition would have been different the Minister said adding 'poverty is contrary to the teachings of the Holy Prophet (Sm)'.

Organised by the local people of the Kalabagan, the conference also addressed by renowned Muslim scholars of the country endorsed the new education policy of the government.