

Make mass literacy movement a success

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Wednesday stressed that local bodies and leadership in the rural areas must be involved more actively to make the national mass literacy movement a success, reports BSS.

In this regard the Prime Minister said that the Government officials had a big role to play in motivating the local leadership and the people. The most important task of the official would be to ensure proper co-ordination in implementing the programme, he stressed.

Shah Aziz was addressing the Additional Deputy Commissioners and the district education officers who are in-charge of implementing the mass literacy programme at a conference held at the Education Extension and Research Institute in Dacca on Wednesday morning.

He called upon the officials at district, sub-division and thana levels to be up and doing in co-operating with the local leadership and people in making the mass literacy movement a success. "There should be a missionary zeal in this regard," the Prime Minister emphasised.

The conference was also addressed by Mr Abdul Baten, State Minister for Education and Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Education.

The Prime Minister, who is in-charge of the Ministry of Education, also explained the objectives of the mass literacy movement which had been launched as the second phase of President Zia's revolution.

He said that the first phase of the revolution — the scandal digging programme — had been crowned with success through the spontaneous and whole-hearted support and participation of the people.

Likewise, the second phase of the revolution aimed at imparting functional literacy to one crore people must be taken towards its desired goal of success, the Prime Minister said. He said the task must be fulfilled as education is one of the basic pre-requisites to national development.

The Prime Minister said that many neighbouring countries had already achieved a significant headway in increasing the rate of literacy and observed that there was no reason why the mass literacy movement would not succeed in the country.

In his address, Mr Baten, the State Minister for Education said that the country had been engulfed by the curse of illiteracy for centuries. But there never was any realistic effort made by any government in the past to deliver the people from the curse.

He said that it was for the

first time that the Government of President Zia had taken a positive step to wipe out illiteracy through revolution.

Mr Baten said that in the past crores of taka were spent in holding seminars, conducting researches and preparing volumes of reports but nothing tangible was ever done to free the country from the curse of illiteracy.

President Zia's revolution was the first realistic initiative in this regard, he said and added that fruits of the mass literacy campaign would become visible soon. In this connection, the State Minister stressed the need for changing the mentality of the people through a psychological revolution.