

# Tk 90cr. plan to remove illiteracy

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Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Wednesday that the Government had taken steps on priority basis to remove the curse of illiteracy from the society and promote primary education in the country, says BSS.

With this end in view, he said, an amount of Taka 90 crore would be spent under the Second Five-Year Plan.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a seminar organised by the Ministry of Education at the Shishu Academy auditorium in observance of the Interna-

tional Literacy Day.

Presided over by Dr Mohammad Selim, a Professor of the Dacca University, the function was addressed by Mr Abdul Baten State Minister for Education Kazi Fazlur Rahman Secretary Ministry of Education and Mr. Mohammad Ferdous Khan an educationist.

Shah Aziz, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Education, said that the Government had spent an amount of Taka seven crore under a crash programme for promotion of mass literacy and primary education in the country. A total of one crore books he pointed out had so far been distributed while another one crore books were being printed.

The Prime Minister said that one reading centre will be opened in each village as was cherished by late President Ziaur Rahman. One radio and television set will also be given to each village as per the late President's commitment he added.

Referring to the progress of the mass literacy programme Shah Aziz said that 30 lakh of people were imparted functional education during a period of one year.

He pointed out that functional education would enable one to read newspapers, write letters and keep family accounts.

The Prime Minister said that the progress of mass literacy programme was a bit slower than the progress of other development programmes initiated by late President Zia.

He observed that the people took more interest in canal digging than in mass literacy because canal digging gave them immediate result through increase of production in the fields.