

## Steps geared up to wipe out curse of illiteracy: PM

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Saturday that steps had been further geared up to wipe out the curse of illiteracy by providing functional education to all illiterate people by the end of 1985, reports BSS.

He said there was considerable enthusiasm among the people for removal of illiteracy from the society.

The Prime Minister was addressing a conference of the Additional Deputy Commissioners (mass-literacy) held at Bangladesh National Bureau of Education and Information Statistics on Saturday morning.

He said a central cell had been set up in the Prime Minister's Secretariat with a Joint Secretary (development) ministry of education as co-ordinator.

The Prime Minister directed all the Additional Deputy Commissioners (mass literacy) to submit quarterly progressive report of work to the central cell which would also be transmitted to the President's secretariat.

Nine lakh copies of primers have so far been supplied to one lakh fifty thousand mass-literacy squads operating all over the country he said.

So far three lakh ninety-two thousand teachers are impart-

ing functional education to fiftyeight lakh learners of whom 40 per cent are female. Shah Aziz said.

Shah Aziz said a programme has been worked out for students (class X and XI) in mass education as part of school curriculum beginning from next examination, as an incentive. Markswill be added to participant students in the SSC Kamil Fazel and Alem examinations.

The Prime Minister said instruction had been issued to all non government educational institutions to the effect that their participation in mass education work would be considered in giving to government aids and grants.

Shah Aziz said inter-ministerial meetings had been held for effective coordination between the thana level officers of all ministries for accelerating the pace of work.

A separate directorate for mass education was being established soon.

He said in all gramsarkar, one member is being exclusively deputed for this work. All circle officers are working as coordinators in their respective thanas.

All members of the staff of the education ministry have been directed to work in their respective villages for one month to promote literacy drive.

All required government officers.

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