

Off-11/11/80

Eradicate illiteracy : Zia

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to be remembered that illiteracy is the prime enemy - a major impediment - in the way of making any great revolution a success. Therefore, we have to eradicate illiteracy at any price and the earlier we can do it the better.

In this activity, we will encourage all our educated brothers and sisters at the village, ward and union levels to work voluntarily and they will be organised by the Union Parishads and Pourashavas. The Chairmen of the Union Parishads in their recent meetings with me have promised to participate dedicatedly in this programme. The local members of the parliament will give necessary directives and help in this respect and the over-all responsibility of management and co-ordination of work in each district will rest upon the respective Deputy Commissioner.

Besides, a co-ordination and a control cell at the President's Secretariat Co-ordination cells will be organised in the Vice-President's Department, Ministries of Education, Finance and Local Government in this regard. Such cells will also be there at the offices of Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers at the district and sub-divisional levels. The Ministry of Education and the Education Council committee organised under the chairmanship of the Vice-President for universal education have been publishing jointly books on primary and functional education. Along with educating the illiterates, arrangements will be made to give them proper knowledge of modern agriculture, health, family planning and subjects related to national development.

AWARDS

At this stage of revolution, persons who will be able to exhibit remarkable performance in the struggle of eradication of illiteracy from the country will be crowned with national and other awards. I shall hope that students and teachers of schools, colleges and universities will participate in this programme on a large scale. The Education Ministry will give necessary directives to various educational institutions in this respect. Other related ministries will also issue similar directives to the organisations under their command.

BEGINS FROM FEB. 21

This great programme will be implemented from February 21 next. We have selected this day to pay regards to the great martyrs of the country who had sacrificed their lives for our mother-tongue. My earnest appeal to the literate countrymen to spontaneously and actively participate in this drive to eradicate illiteracy. I firmly believe that students, teachers, freedom fighters, government officials, workers, peasants, Imams and members of the armed forces and political parties will respond to my appeal.

I specially request the leaders and workers of Bangladesh Nationalist Party to come forward and play their due role in this national task. I also appeal to all political parties of the country to join us shoulder to shoulder to free the country from the curse of illiteracy.

Dear brothers and sisters, Now is the time for everybody, particularly those who want to give leadership to the people, to search one's soul. The country has given us many things, whatever resources she has is for us, now what we can give to our dear motherland - the main question is how much we can sacrifice to make the country happy and prosperous.

I pray to Almighty Allah for the blessings so that we are able to discharge our constitutional duty and make the revolution successful so that Bangladesh can be identified as a dignified and self-respecting country in the comity of nations.

I wish my best wishes and greetings before I conclude.

Kheda Hafez,

Bangladesh Zindabad

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