

1,500 primary schools to be set up in remote areas

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government would set up 1,500 primary schools in the remote areas of the country.

He also urged the educated citizens of the country to spread the light of education among the disadvantaged people to build a nation free from illiteracy.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion at National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM) in the city on the occasion of the International Literacy Day 2009.

Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO organised the discussion in

cooperation with UNESCO Dhaka Office.

The education minister said the government has taken different initiatives to ensure enrolment of all children in school by 2011 as well as building an illiteracy-free country by 2014.

"We would provide the students with stipends and food with a view to attracting them to attend classes," he also said.

Renowned educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said those who do not have access to the world of knowledge remain uncivilised.

Literacy doesn't only create awareness but also change the attitude towards life and create the sense of

self-respect, he said.

Prof Sayeed suggested matriculating at least all girls of the country to make family planning programme effective rapidly.

In his keynote paper, Rezaul Kader, director general of Bureau of Non-formal Education, said that the current literacy rate is 52.49 which was 32.4 in 1991.

Presided over by Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, the discussion was also addressed by litterateur Selina Hossain, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University, Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, and Kiichi Oyasu, acting representative of UNESCO to Bangladesh.