

LETTERS

1 RAJUK AVENUE, DHAKA-1000

Primary education

Dear Editor,

The primary education has been adversely affected in sadar upazila of Jhenidah district due to lack of infrastructure facilities.

In this connection, Meakundu Primary School with 325 students has been facing acute accommodation problems since long.

Students sit on the floor due to shortage of benches. So the local people urged the authority concerned to take necessary steps for smooth functioning of the school.

Yours sincerely
KALIMULLAH
Jhenidah.

Agricultural education

Dear Editor,

Since Bangladesh is an agricultural country, I honestly hope that the authority concerned will adopt pragmatic measures to raise the living standard of the farming people and to ensure overall agricultural development through providing maximum subsidies to the agriculture sector.

It is necessary to educate the farming community and we feel that agricultural schools should be

set up in every village for imparting agricultural education plus primary education. More agricultural universities and colleges should be established in order to produce qualified agricultural personnel and farmers.

In general, it is expected that the authority concerned will be able to make a major breakthrough in improving the lot of the common Bangladeshis and in achieving economic emancipation of the country.

Yours sincerely
M. ZAHIDUL HAQUE
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207.

Primary Education And Poverty

Sir,

In the world conference on education for all (WCEFA) held in Thailand this year under the joint auspices of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the U.N. Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank. More than 1500 delegates from 150 countries disclosed that more than 100 million children world-wide do not attend primary school and nearly one billion adults cannot read and write and that in developing countries the current enrollment rates of children in schools are very dissatisfactory and are falling far short of expectations because of growing wants and poverty. In the statement issued after the five day long meeting, the delegates added that staggering debt crisis and stagnating economies in developing countries like Bangladesh have stumped literary drives. What WCEFA revealed is really a matter of deep concern for us, for in as much as her (Bangladesh) ramshackle economy has gone into a steep decline because of subsequent debt crisis and for want of desired funds she can not spend as much money on education, especially on Universal Primary Education (UPE), as the plans and programme made from time to time over years required. And more concerning matter is that a great many rural people living below poverty line have to eke out their living by working very hard round the clock.

A survey conducted by my employees reveals that almost cent-per cent rural people, willy-nilly, or under certain circumstances, have to engage their small children in their jobs, stints and household chores demanding hard labour and long time. When once a child gets engaged in such jobs at a time, it losses its inspiration and can seldom think of going to school again.

In this way and for the same reason the current enrollment rates of school-going children in Bangladesh, where earlier programmes on much education and economic salvation have been seriously prostrated, are being lowered to a deplorable extent.

And we are looking forward to the Govt's literacy drive which is scheduled to start country-wide from January 1991 in full swing.

Mosharruf Hossain, Halderpara, Brahmanbaria.