

# Compulsory free primary education

## by '85: PM

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Monday night that the Commonwealth was a free Association of nations and an effective instrument of development, reports BSS.

He was addressing delegates attending the Commonwealth regional seminar on universal primary education in Asia and Pacific at a dinner at a city hotel.

Education, he said, was a pre-requisite for proper nourishment and sustenance of democracy. He said that President Ziaur Rahman, who came to power by a revolution, had returned the power to the people by holding elections and setting up a sovereign parliament which had "unfettered powers both financial and legislative".

With the lifting of martial law and revoking the emergency acts and rules there is now full display of democracy in the country, he added.

He said that the Government had embarked upon a massive programme of agrarian revolution as enjoined in Article 16 of the constitution.

Shah Aziz said mass literacy campaign had begun and it had assumed the character and dimension of a national movement and added, introduction of compulsory free and univer-

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sal primary education was a constitutional obligation which was being implemented in phases. By 1985 it would be completed, he said and added that the Government had formulated a people-oriented education system suited to the requirements of the modern age of science and technology. Higher education in the new education policy has to be selective, he said.

Fourteen member countries of the Commonwealth are attending the seminar which is sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The dinner was attended, among others, by Dr. Badroddoza Chowdhury, Secretary General BNP, Planning Minister Dr. Fashiuddin Mahtab and Mr. Abul Hasnat, Mayor, Dacca Municipal Corporation.

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