

## Teachers urged to help fight ignorance, poverty

By A Staff Reporter

Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed on Monday called upon the teachers to shake off their isolation from the society and to provide leadership for fighting the three great enemies: ignorance, poverty and disease.

Inaugurating a week-long leadership training workshop for the national and district-level executives of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association at the local Education Extension and Research Centre, the Education Minister reminded the teachers of their responsibility to upgrade the standard of education and their role for guiding the constructive national goals of community development.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed stressed the need for integrating education programmes with the development programmes to meet the needs of the community. The Education Minister felt the need for remodelling the college and university courses for the purpose.

He said that the first and foremost task of our education

should be to do away with or minimise the differences between different groups of people in the society observing that a nation which was divided into distinct classes cannot work unitedly for the development of the nation. Democracy was not a mere slogan but a way of life in which every individual had the freedom to develop in accordance with his abilities and aptitudes, he said.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that our education had long been

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divorced from practice and it should be remodelled to produce people with initiative, creativity and intellectual ability to rationally analyse and solve their own problems.

The Education Minister emphasised the need for changing the attitudes of the teachers and the taught and suggested that teachers could provide leadership to the community with the help of their students in works like i) eradication of illiteracy, ii) education programmes for illiterate adults, iii) helping government to organise agriculture extension programmes, iv) organising women's work, v) organising small-scale industry, vi) assisting health programmes of the government, vii) helping people at times of natural calamity and disaster, viii) beautifying the country by way of planting trees etc. and ix) organising cultural functions and discussion sessions with the people to narrow down the communication gap between themselves and the people.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed termed the week-long leadership training programme for the national and district-level executives of BCTA as timely and hoped it would be helpful in upgrading the standard of education in the country.

The week-long training programme has been organised by Bangladesh College Teachers' Association in collaboration with the Canadian Teachers' Federation and the World Confederation of Organisations of Teaching Profession (WCOTF).

Presided over by Mr A.F.M. Khalilur Rahman, President, BCTA, the inaugural function was addressed by Mr Robert M. Barker, Director of External Programmes, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Mr Aloysius Mathews, Sub-regional Director, WCOTF, Mr Shareful Islam, Secretary General BCTA and Principal A.K.M. Shohidullah, Vice-President BCTA.