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'Higher rate of literacy to ensure higher output'

MANIKGANJ, Jan 24 (BSS) : Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed said on Sunday that higher rate of literacy would ensure higher production both in agriculture and industry. He was visiting non-formal

primary schools at Manikganj run by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Ayesha Abed Academy and Ganasastha Kendra at Savar.

Mr Moudud Ahmed said, the government was firmly committed to raise the literacy rate because without education no development programme can yield desired results.

He went on, for having a sound nation, mothers of the country were to be imparted basic education. Mothers are the basic institutions where citizen get their first education, he pointed out.

He said, the non-government and voluntary organisations like BRAC and Ganasastha Kendra had greater role to play in implementing programmes like arresting population boom, raising literacy rate, generating self-employment and imparting health education. He said, no government alone could develop the society without spontaneous participation of the community. He said the non-government and voluntary organisations could work as catalysts to motivate the community to get involved in social welfare-oriented activities.

Mr Moudud went round Uchatia and Kanda Kandi non formal primary schools, two of the 181 such schools in Manikganj upazila and 82 in 31 other upazilas of the country run by BRAC. Thereafter he visited family poultry farms run by rural poor families under the patronisation of BRAC.

He also visited Ayesha Abed Academy, another institution for training rural women in batik, embroidery, garment-making and other needle works, which help rural women in self-employment.

The Prime Minister urged them to diversify their activities so that small and cottage industries could flourish in rural Bangladesh where rural men and women could be economically utilized for boosting economy on self-employment basis.

Rapid industrialisation in the country on the basis of local manpower and raw material could be possible through establishment of small and cottage industries familywise, he observed.