

Consensus needed to ensure education for all: Speaker

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday said that national consensus was needed to ensure education for all by the year 2000, reports BSS.

"Despite having eye—sight, one is blind without education and that curtain of blindness can be removed through education," the Speaker said this, while addressing the seminar on World Literacy Day as the chief guest at a city hotel.

Organised by Lions Club International District-315B.

Bangladesh, the seminar was chaired by district governor Ln Jalal Ahmed.

Dr Anisuzzaman, of Dhaka University presented the key — note paper in the seminar.

Mr Biswas said with only 24 per cent of the population literate, leaving aside bulk of the population illiterate, the progress and development of the nation were not possible.

Stressing the importance of the government compulsory mass education programme, he said the highest budget were allocated this year for the education sector. He, however, admitted that the budget was not adequate.

Referring to the literacy rate of Sri Lanka, Kerala in India,

Turkey and Japan, the Speaker said about 98 per cent people are educated in Sri Lanka, 100 percent in Kerala and 99.1 per cent in Japan.

Lauding different social and welfare activities of the Lions Club, the Speaker said that the rich people of the society should come forward to help the distressed humanity.

He underlined the importance of mass awareness about the curse of illiteracy and urged all to mobilize and inspire the people to eliminate this.

Prof, Anisuzzaman said ignorance and poverty, were rising gradually in the society due to lack of education. "Children do not even attend the school though the educational institutions are within their reach," he added.

He urged all involved in spreading literacy to play their due role in wiping out illiteracy from the country. "Otherwise the whole nation will remain under darkness," he said.

Dr Anisuzzaman also stressed the need for a consensus of all political parties to root out terrorism from the educational arena.

Another report says: International literacy day was

observed Sunday in the country as elsewhere in the world with a call to eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country with concerted efforts of all.

Various governmental, non-governmental and social organisations held discussions and seminars on the occasion.

Bangladesh Literacy Society held a seminar on "The significance of the international literacy day and education for all in Bangladesh" at Naem Auditorium here.

Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs Prof A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury attended the seminar as the chief guest while Education Secretary A.N.M. Eusuf was present as the special guest.

Presided over by former advisor to the Acting President Kazi Fazlur Rahman, the seminar was also addressed by UGC Chairman Prof, M Shamsul, Huq, UNDP resident representative Mr Winston Temple, education coordinator of UNIOEF Ms, Gudrun, and president of the literacy society Dr, Khondakar Bazlul Huq. Secretary general of the society, Prof, M Osman Ghani read out the key — note paper.

Speaking on the occasion, the education minister said the BNP government attached top priority to the mass education programme in its political programmes.

Prof, Chowdhury said coordinated efforts of all side by side government endeavours were essential to raise the rate of literacy. "We have a huge manpower and it must be utilised in a organised manner," he said. Dhaka Ahsania Mission in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) held a seminar at the UNIC premises marking the day.

State minister for energy and mineral resources Dr Khondakar Mosharraf Hossain attended the seminar as the chief guest.

Former chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission Mr S.M. Al Hossainy attended the seminar as the chief guest while ex- director of public instruction Mr. M Ferdous Khan was the special guest. Joint secretary (development) of the ministry of education Mr Nooruddin Mahmud Kamal presented a key note paper in the seminar which was chaired by education secretary Mr A.N.M Eusuf.