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## Local govt's role in pry education uplift stressed

Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud on Sunday said the local governments would have to play a more active role in implementing the country's primary education projects, reports BSS.

He said the upazila chairmen, in particular, would have to lead the way in this regard and play the crucial role in infusing efficiency into the sector.

The Minister was inaugurating a conference of upazila chairmen on "the role of upazila parishads in implementing universal primary education" at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) in Dhaka.

Mr Mahmud underlined the importance of improving the quality and standard of primary education on which, he said, the government was giving top priority.

He pointed out that Taka 419 crore had been earmarked for the sector in the current fiscal which is about 10 per cent of annual development budget.

Education Secretary Hedayet Ahmed, UNICEF representative Anthony Kennedy and Director General of Primary Education Zahirul Islam Bhuiyan also spoke at the inaugural session of the day-long conference.

Mr Mahmud also underlined that the rate of enrolment of children in the primary schools should be drastically increased and efforts be made to cut down the drop-out rates.

He laid particular emphasis on the appointment of efficient teachers at the primary level to ensure a better standard of lessons at the schools.

He said the authorities were contemplating a study on the ways and means to evolve a system of teachers recruitment to ensure induction of good teachers.

UNICEF representative Anthony Kennedy underlined the need for appreciating the usefulness of primary education as well as women's education.