

Local bodies to administer primary education: Zafar

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TANGAIL, Oct. 1: Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said here today that Government was contemplating to empower in phases the local-government bodies to administer the primary education, reports BSS.

Mr. Ahmed said issue is being discussed at the meetings of National Educational Advisory Council (NEAC) and is also under the consideration of the Government.

Addressing the chairmen of union parishads of the district on "non-formal" education, the Education Minister said NEAC is now busy preparing a uniform humane and all-round education system, which will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our toiling masses. Mr. Ahmed said the first

Education policy of the country which is coming out shortly will do away with disparity in education system.

Mr. Ahmed said the Government is determined to wipe out illiteracy from the country and also to stop the "aimless" education which is now in vogue.

He said the education policy will stress on production oriented and people-oriented education system so as to benefit the vast majority of the population so long deprived from the light of education.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Referring to religious education the Minister said madrasahs will stay but along with religious education technical and modern scientific education will have to be incorporated in their curricula.

Touching on the rate of literacy in the country the Minister said only 24 per cent of the population know now to read and write. He said literacy among women is even more pitiful as only 12 per cent of them have been registered as literate in the census.

Mr. Ahmed said we must educate our people in the shortest possible time otherwise all our attempts for progress and development will be a far cry.

OPPOSITION PARTIES

ENA adds: Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed today said that there should be opposition parties for the effective functioning of the Government. He was addressing a public gathering at the Islamic University here.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who is also the General Secretary of

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the United People's Party (UPP) told the meeting that the constructive criticisms, by the opposition parties help the Government in many ways. He said "we must have tolerance to accept opposition criticism, in the interest of maintaining democratic values in the country."

The meeting was presided over by Maulana Abdus Sattar of the Islamic University.

Kazi Zafar said that a Government might under go changes but democracy and democratic values remain forever. He said "we shall continue to work with the people in the interest of establishing democracy and democratic values.

He visited the Mazar of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and placed floral wreaths there.

The Education Minister also addressed meetings at Karatia Sadat College, Bharateswari Homes at Mirzapur, Darul-ullum-Madrasha at Tangail, Shaheed Aziz Girls' High School,

Gantail Girls' High School, Karatia Abeda Khanam Girls' High School and Kumudini College.

Urban Development and Works Minister Abdur Rahman also spoke at these meetings.

Speaking at the meeting at Sadat College Kazi Zafar stressed the need for reviving and revitalising the activities of the students unions at educational institutions. He said that elections should be held for establishing democratic atmosphere in the educational institutions.

Earlier Kazi Zafar Ahmed addressed a workers' meeting at Gorai, he also inaugurated the National School Soccer Tournament at Tangail Football ground.