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Practising Bangla

The Council of Ministers in a recent meeting has taken a number of decisions to widen the use of Bangla in all spheres of our national life. This time the cabinet does not rest content by merely issuing directives to the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies to use the vernacular extensively in carrying out their functions, it goes as far as showing the ways and means to spread the practice of Bangla by removing the obstacles that stand in the way of fulfilling the great national objective. Thus there is more to this move than a mere reiteration of the respect for the state language.

In transforming Bangla into the language of the times; i.e. a medium highly adaptable to all our current needs, we have to make use of our will factor to bolster the promotional moves we are making to find newer expressions in our vernacular in keeping with the expanding horizon of knowledge in the fields of arts, sciences and technologies. We should perhaps allow ourselves a degree of aggressiveness at this stage of our pursuit to use Bangla in all fields of national life so that we are able to overcome the initial difficulties in this regard. It is only through a constant use of the vernacular that we can make it truly more useful for ourselves.

Our mother tongue can be extensively applied in administration and management, provided we have a Bangla glossary for the English words that have been in vogue. Bangla Academy has prepared some glossaries in a piecemeal fashion and these now need to be compiled methodically. In fact, the academy ought to make studious efforts to bring out a comprehensive English to Bangla dictionary with nuances of words clearly spelt out in the rendering. If inaccuracy and inexactitude are allowed to creep into a language these will not only burden the latter with imprecision and superfluities, these may even obstruct the pace of practical growth. Thus proper use of the vernacular should be ensured by adhering to an authentic set of glossaries. Both uniformity and propriety should form the basic elements of the usage that we develop.

While we should lose no time to create an appropriate agency for expediting the preparation of text books for all forms of higher studies, we might not as well fail to identify certain obvious new spheres of our activities where Bangla is scarcely used. All training instructions can be imparted in the vernacular with desirable spread effects. And it will do good to our national image if our ambassadors or delegation chiefs abroad speak in Bangla on appropriate occasions using interpreters for the dialogues.