

Educational management will be decentralised

SAARC experts group meeting on "modernization of curriculum" began in Dhaka yesterday (Saturday) to report on the relevance of the school curricula and instructional methods from the perspective of improving the quality of life of the people in the region, reports BSS.

The two-day meeting, inaugurated by Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar at International Conference Centre, will also

make recommendations regarding revision of school curricula for consideration by the member countries.

Delegates from SAARC member countries are attending the meeting.

State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunos Khan attended the inaugural session as the special guest.

Education Secretary ANM Eusuf, who is also the chairman of the national committee on SAARC experts group meeting on modernization of curriculum, gave the address of welcome.

The Education Minister, said inspite of great impediments within and outside the member countries, SAARC has successfully made big strides in the way of mutual cooperation and friendship. He, in this connection, recalled the contributions of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who mooted the concept of South Asian Regional Cooperation during 1977-80.

Mr Sircar said literacy in the countries of this region, excepting Sri Lanka, is quite low and gender differential is wide. SAARC countries cannot afford to keep majority of their people as illiterate for long, he said adding that the only way out perhaps is putting up a concerted struggle against "this deadliest enemy of mankind."

The Education Minister said the Bangladesh government has taken up a massive programme of universal primary education and mass education programme as its political commitment. If needed, people-oriented educational legislation should be made, he said.

He said the programmes on mass education and modernization of curricula are bold steps towards making people educated, cultured and intellectually enlightened quickly.

Terming the curriculum as the heart in any educational programme Mr Sircar stressed the need for its sound development.

The Education Minister said the government will reduce the bureaucratic excesses in the education system by decentralising some of the management functions to the lowest administrative unit.

Mr Eunos Khan said it is of utmost importance for every nation to design a curriculum that would best enable education to improve the quality of life of its people.

He said curricular activities aim at achieving certain objectives that have both educational and social relevance. They include the development of instructional materials and more effective methods and techniques, he said adding that successful implementation of such a curriculum should make education more responsive to the needs of a society or country.

The State Minister hoped that the fruits of the deliberations and discussions will go a long way to find out what changes and modifications are necessary to make education more responsive to the needs of real-life situations making life more meaningful and worthwhile for the peoples.