

## CG keen to develop institutional base for historical researches

*Education adviser tells History Assoc conference*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education and Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said the caretaker government is keen to take initiative to develop an institutional base for historical researches as part of its efforts to establish a knowledge-based society.

He said, "To give a firm base for research activities on history, major initiatives can be taken...it might be done in short time if historians make specific proposal".

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the fifteenth biennial national conference of Bangladesh History Association at Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

The association gives away a gold medal to historian Prof Dr AF Salahuddin Ahmed for his contribu-

tion to the teaching and researches on history.

Emphasising the need for building greater national aspiration for unity and prosperity, the education adviser said the government can take such initiatives for better exercise of knowledge in collaboration with the History Association.

He said learning history is very important for building a society respectful to knowledge and tradition and tolerant of others' views.

Dr Hossain Zillur urged the historians to conduct researches on history of economics and urbanisation and write regional history of the country.

Dr Salahuddin, who was not present at the programme, in a message to the conference said it is unfortunate that history of Bangladesh has been distorted for

narrow partisan interests.

"We are now facing the consequences of distorted history," he said.

Association General Secretary Dr Nurul Huda Abul Mansur read the message with its President Prof Dr Syed Anwar Hossain in the chair.

Prof Anwar said knowledge on history helps people understand the present and decide on future.

"The exercise of history in Bangladesh is however not satisfactory," he said, adding that a nation without knowing its history becomes rootless.

He proposed making history a mandatory subject at college level for all students.

Bangladesh History Association Joint Secretary Mohammad Golam Saqlain Saki also spoke at the inaugural session.