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Chief Adviser Justice Latifur Rahman addressing as chief guest on the occasion of 'International Literacy Day and Adult Education Week, 2001' at Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city on Saturday.

## International Literacy Day observed

# Education acts as guiding force in other sectors of life: CA

Chief Adviser Justice Latifur Rahman on Saturday said democracy and education are complementary, and if the whole nation had been educated, the necessity of Caretaker Government would not have arisen, reports UNB.

"Every educated person would have been conscious about his voting right - his civic right and his duties and responsibilities," he said addressing a function on International Literacy Day and Adult Education Week-2001 at Osmani Memorial Hall in Dhaka in the morning.

Justice Latifur Rahman said an educated person could independently protect and exercise his right to franchise and show respect to the opinion and voting rights of other people.

He said the light of education could totally remove the confusing propaganda and also the terrorism, muscle power, black money and vote rigging.

"Certainly, a country of educated society can ensure mutual trust among the political parties and forge relations of tolerance and trust. And overall, ensure an ideal peaceful democratic environment," he added.

The Chief Adviser said even at the present situation, the nation could feel proud for its continued success in the education sector, in the practice of democracy and exercise of voting rights, and the forward march of democracy.

People could cast their votes freely in the elections of 1991 and 1996, he said, expressing the determination to hold a free, fair, impartial and peaceful election in the country on October 1.

He said the prime duty of the non-party Caretaker Government is to extend all out cooperation to the Election Commission for free, fair and impartial polls. "We are performing our duties with total neutrality to hold a free and fair general election."

He said the education also acts as the guiding force in other sectors of life, including poverty-alleviation, flourishing of democracy and economy, and for creating awareness in all fields.

"So, the journey we have embarked on to build a totally literate society will have to be completed for the overall development of the nation," the Chief Adviser said adding that the country has made remarkable progress through united efforts.

He said literacy rate has rose to 65.5 per cent and hoped that this trend of success would flow to every sector of the society.

"Education is not only a basic necessity, but also a basic human right," he said adding that no field of life is out of the purview of education."

Adviser in charge of Education ASM Shahjahan, Primary and Mass Education Secretary Prof Tahmina Hossain and Director General of Non-formal Education Department Dhiraj Malakar also addressed the function.

Besides the invited guests, a large number of students joined the function. A colourful rally of students and education activists was also brought out from the Osmani Memorial Hall on the occasion.