

তাৰিখ ... 12/7/80...
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Educated people urged to help remove illiteracy

President Ziaur Rahman on Friday re-iterated his call to the educated section of the population to put in their concerned efforts for removing the curse of illiteracy from the society for achieving the objective of the peaceful revolution reports BSS.

Addressing the concluding session of the national conference of Bangladesh Literacy Society in Dacca at the Institute of Engineers, the President said that it was the national duty of every educated individual to contribute his service for this purpose.

President Zia told the audience that the government had already launched a campaign to remove illiteracy and said that it was a difficult task to continue development activities where 80 per cent of the population was illiterate. "Illiterate people cannot shoulder the responsibility of development activities," he observed.

The President pointed out that only government effort would not be enough for achieving this huge task and urged the educated people to come forward voluntarily to help in imparting minimum possible education to the illiterate people so that they could read newspapers, write letters and make simple calculations.

He said that the first phase of the revolution was launched to double the country's food production and added that one of the main objectives of the literacy campaign was also to educate the peasants with the simple techniques of increasing the productions in the fields.

President Zia said 16 per cent of the population was educated and observed that if every educated individual undertook to impart education to seven to eight persons, it would take not much time to remove illiteracy from the country.

Referring to the Swadhinvar Gram Sarker, the President said that it was formed with the objective in view to double food production, removing illiteracy and popularise family planning. He said that the main thrust of the family planning programme should be to bring the existing population to zero growth level.

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Home Minister Mr A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, Health and Population Control Minister Mr M.A. Matin and Minister of State for Education Mr. Abdul Baten was present on the occasion.

Minister of State for Manpower, Development Mr Ataudin Khan presided over the function.