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Productivity presupposes education: VP

DHAKA, April 19 (UNB): Vice-President Moudud Ahmed has called to create necessary scope for exploiting the latent talents in order to lead the country to prosperity.

He said economic emancipation of the country cannot be achieved as envisioned if the present rate of literacy was not increased through concerted efforts.

The Vice-President was distributing the Independence Day Gold Medals 1990 of the Gana Manash Nirikkhyan Kendro here at the BCLC auditorium this morning.

Seven personalities of the country were awarded the medals for remarkable contribution to their respective fields.

The award winners for the year 1990 are: Begum Zeenat Hussain (Social Work) Saiful Bari (Poetry), Abul Khayer Muslehuddin (Literature), Sanullah Nuri (Journalism), Mir Mushtaque Ahmed (Freedom Fighter), Mustafizur Rahman (Banking) and Maj (Rtd) M M Iqbal (Anti-drug movement).

Moudud Ahmed, who attend-

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ed the function as chief guest, underscored the need for increasing the involvement of womenfolk in nation-building activities.

He said the government was determined to increase the country's existing rate of literacy from 18 per cent to 60 per cent by 1995 and provide cost-free education to the women with the aim of creating a board based vibrant society.

Quoting a recent survey, the Vice President said that the efficiency rate of the Bangladeshi workforce was 48 per cent less than the workers in Pakistan and 42 per cent less than the Indians.

The function, presided over by Gana Manash Nirikkhyan Kendro Executive Director Yesair Yamin, was also addressed among others by Industries Secretary A K M Mosharraf Hossain, Jatiya Juba Kendro Chairman Kazi Mozammel Huq and the award committee convenor Deedar Chowdhury.