

Mass literacy drive to continue : Sattar

# Illiteracy will be removed by '85

By A Staff Reporter

Acting President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar said on Tuesday the Government was determined to remove the curse of illiteracy from the country by 1985.

The Acting President said with people's participation the mass literacy drive initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman, was progressing well. It would continue, he said.

Mr Justice Abdus Sattar was addressing a conference of Bangladesh Literacy Society organised to mark the World Literacy Day at Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

He said, launched as second phase of peaceful revolution of late President Zia, the pro-

gramme aimed at covering over four crore people in the age group of 11 to 45 years.

Presided over by Mr Bazle Rabbi, President of the society, the function was also addressed by Mr Obaidul Huq, Editor Bangladesh Observer, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Chairman National Advisory Committee and Mr Osman Ghani, Secretary General of the society, and Mr Nazmul Huda among others.

Acting President Sattar said that mass literacy was made a national programme because education was the means for social, political and economic development of the nation.

Terming illiteracy as a curse to the individual, the society, the nation and the world, he said no country could properly move to the path of progress without its eradication.

Without education people faced difficulties even in discharging their daily responsibilities. Education was of immense help in leading healthy normal life, he said.

#### NON-GOVT EFFORTS

Mr Justice Abdus Sattar however, said it was not possible on the part of the government to alone shoulder the gigantic task of achieving mass literacy.

Non-government efforts by social workers and volunteers should go alongside the government programme for success of the drive.

He said that expansion of education would also help solve the population problem which the Government had identified as the number one problem of the country.

The Acting President congratulated Bangladesh Literacy Society and other non-government and voluntary organisations for their efforts for eradication of illiteracy and announced a grant of Taka one lakh in favour of the society from his fund.

#### OBAIDUL HUQ

Earlier, Mr Obaidul Huq said that the mass literacy revolu-

tion of late President Zia deserved priority compared to other programmes.

Terming education as an important aspect for development Mr Huq said that illiteracy was at the root of poverty in the developing countries of the world.

#### DR SHELLEY

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley said that the mass literacy drive of late President Zia was a fighting strategy for reflecting the dreams of nine crore people of the country.

He said that the drive was launched to enable the people to solve their day to day problems. Dr Shelley emphasised the need for relating education to the realities of people's life.

He urged the Government to extend necessary help and assistance to voluntary organisations engaged in eradication of illiteracy for ensuring rapid progress of the programme.

Mr Osman Ghani said that the society had so far freed over 13000 people from illiteracy through its 322 branches in 80 villages of 18 districts. He said that the society had plan to open branches all over the country in future.

Later, Acting President Justice Sattar distributed prizes to 20 branches of the society for better performance in the mass literacy drive.