

# Progress, prosperity depend on education : Zia

By A Staff Reporter

President Ziaur Rahman said in Dacca on Sunday that removal of illiteracy was basically the responsibility of the teachers and the educated section of the community.

He said that the teachers should provide leadership in developing the education system. It was on the development of education that the progress and prosperity of the country depended, he said.

The President was inaugurating a seminar on "mass literacy programme and the teaching community" organised by Bangladesh Government College Teachers' Association at the Dacca College Auditorium.

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury Deputy Leader of Parliament and Secretary General Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Mr. A. K. M. Ali Reza, General Secretary of Government College Teachers' Association also addressed the inaugural session, which was presided over by Mrs. Jahanara Begum,

President of the association.

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Information Minister Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, State Minister for Education Mr. Abdul Baten State Minister for Youth Development Mr. Abul Kashem and Senior Education Administrators of the country were also present on the occasion.

## HISTORY OF SUBJUGATION

Terming education as power, the President called for removal of illiteracy in a revolutionary manner to ensuring rapid development of the country. Bangladesh remained underdeveloped because 83 per cent of its population remained illiterate, he said.

He said that history of Bangladesh was a history of foreign subjugation. The foreign rulers did not allow our people to get educated because they did not want our progress and prosperity. Today the country is independent. Let all of us who are educated join

hands to remove this obstacle to development, the President said.

Lauding the initiative taken by Bangladesh Government College Teachers' Association to remove of illiteracy, the President said that Bangladesh was the only country in the world in which the people came forward to remove illiteracy on the basis of voluntary labour. Over 25 lakh people were freed from the curse of illiteracy last year, he said.

Referring to the criticisms made about the programme, he said that the canal digging programme was opposed by some people who regarded it as a political stunt. But 250 canals were dug last year and production of foodgrains increased considerably. More than 700 canals would be dug this year, he said.