



President Ziaur Rahman addressing a national conference in observance of first anniversary of Mass Literacy Programme at Thakurgaon in Dinajpur on Saturday.

Govt. firm to eradicate illiteracy

THAKURGAON (Dinajpur) Feb. 22.—President Ziaur Rahman here yesterday reiterated that his government was determined to eradicate illiteracy from the society within the shortest possible time, reports BSS.

Illiteracy is the greatest impediment in the way of national progress, he said.

The President was addressing the national convention arranged on the occasion of completion of the first year of launching of the mass literacy programme. On this memorable day last year the programme was launched by President Ziaur Rahman at a village in Faridpur district.

He said that during the first year of the programme several lakhs of people all over the country were covered, who were now able to learn reading and writing.

President Zia pointed out that this had been possible due to active cooperation of the educated section of the society.

The convention was also addressed by Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Deputy Prime Minister Mr S A Bari, A T State Minister for Education, Mr Abdul Baten and Prof. Yusuf Ali, a BNP leader.

Describing the educated people as the vanguard of the second phase of revolution for removing illiteracy, the President urged them to spread to the rural areas and open more mass literacy centres on voluntary basis.

They should come forward in a big way being inspired by the success achieved during the first year of the programme he added.

President Zia said that the removal of illiteracy was also one of the primary and foremost functions of the Swadhin (Continued on page 12 col. 4)

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He said that people all over the country, imbued with the ideals of Bangladeshi nationalism were now carrying out the peaceful revolution for attaining the desired goals of the nation. People alone will be the beneficiaries of the revolution, he added.

Later, the President distributed awards to 200 persons, 10 from each district, for their outstanding performance and in recognition of their services in eradicating illiteracy.