



President Ziaur Rahman speaking of the national conference on the occasion of the first anniversary of mass literacy programme at Thakurgaon on Saturday. Photo also shows Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman and Deputy Prime Minister S. A. Bari A. T.

— Photo: PTB

Govt firm to eradicate illiteracy: President

THAKURGOAN Feb 22: President Ziaur Rahman yesterday reiterated that his government was determined to eradicate illiteracy from the society within the shortest possible time. Illiteracy is the greatest impediment in the way of national progress he said reports reuter BSS.

The President was addressing the national convention here 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 ad-

ressed 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 Swarnavar Gram Sarkar.

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.