

# Mass literacy drive soon

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury Friday said that the present government was pledge-bound to reach education to every nook and corner of the country despite constraints and limitations of resources, reports BSS.

He said the government was now planning to re-launch the mass literacy programme soon to fulfil its objective of educating the nation in a wide scale as dreamt by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

The Education Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the

annual general meeting of Dhaka based Feni samity at Ziaur-Rahman auditorium at Shishu Academy in Dhaka. A function was also organised in this connection to accord reception to and distribute certificate and stipends among the meritorious students of Feni district now studying in various institutions all over the country.

Presided over by the Samity's President Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, the function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Textiles Maj. (Retd). M. A. Mannan, Whip of Jatiya

Sangsad Mahbubul Alam, former presidential adviser Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Brig. Amin Ahmad Choudhury, Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury and the samity's General Secretary, Md Sarwar Jahan.

The Education Minister said at least forty lakh people were taught three Rs under the mass literacy programme launched by shaheed Zia but this people oriented programme was stalled by the autocratic regime which snatched power from the BNP government in 1982.

"If continued, at least 85 per cent could be reached," he said.

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cent people of the country could have been made literate by now the mass literacy programme," Mr Choudhury said adding that the government gave top priority on education sector by allocating the highest amount of money in the coming fiscal.

Prof. Chowdhury said the government would re-launch other development programmes of late President Zia for all-out development of the country and sought whole-hearted cooperation from the people of all strata towards the efforts of the present democratic government.

"We will exert all our efforts on building ourselves as a self-re-

liant and self-conscious nations but we need your cooperation," the Minister said.

Speaking on the occasion as special guest, State Minister for Textiles Maj (Retd) M.A. Mannan said that the construction of the cross dam in the south of Feni district would begin next year with the financial help from the Netherlands Government. After the construction of the dam, the district would benefit agriculturally and be saved from natural calamities, he said. Maj Mannan also said that the government would also take up a massive plan for mulberry plantation in Feni district.

Meanwhile, Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury,

has said in Rajshahi on Thursday the government of BNP would ensure education for all by introducing mass education programme to materialise the dreams of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

He said 15 percent of the total annual revenue expenditure have been allocated to the sector for the improvement of education system.

The Minister was addressing a public meeting at Godagari Degree College premises Thursday.

Organised by the Upazila Committee of BNP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Barrister Aminul Huq MP and Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu.

Later the Education Minister

addressed a freshers' reception of the students of BIT, Rajshahi.

Organised by students front of BNP of BIT Rajshahi, the function was addressed, among others, by Aminul Huq MP Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu and VP and GS of Students Union of the BIT.

Addressing the function Prof Chowdhury stressed the need for creating a congenial atmosphere in the campus. Referring to the role of students in ousting the last autocratic government, the Education Minister said the students had shed blood to pave the way for democracy. He urged them to consolidate democratic process by building democratic institutions in every sphere of national life.