

## Remove illiteracy, says Biswas

RAJSHANI, Sept. 16:—President Abdur Rahman Biswas today called upon all to make the mass literacy programme, initiated by the present democratic Government a success through evaluation and pragmatic approach, reports BSS.

He said, education is the sine qua non to achieve socio-economic progress and to build an ideal nation.

The President was inaugurating a day-long conference on compulsory primary education of the officials of Rajshahi Division at the local Zila Prishad hall here.

He said the present Government has attached priority to education and highest budgetary allocations had been given in this sector.

The President said Taka 503 crore has been earmarked for universal primary education and for the welfare for the primary teachers.

President Biswas said sixty per cent of the jobs of teachers has been reserved for the female to be recruited in the primary schools to ensure their massive participation and solve their unemployment problem.

He called upon the educated women to come forward to avail this opportunity and help spread education among the posterity.

Referring to the mass literacy programme, the President said that it was essential to include the unemployed educated youths in this initiative to ensure increasing the literacy rate in the rural areas.

He said, the present Government has undertaken the mass literacy programme in 43 thanas and about 100 thanas were brought under this

programme by the non-government organisations.

He called upon the well-to-do and educated sections to come forward to make life meaningful for the vast majority.

He urged the teachers and guardians to help create a congenial atmosphere in the country's educational arena for enabling the students to require proper knowledge.

He said, the primary teachers are the forerunners in the task of removing the curse of illiteracy and they have to bear the torch of education

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### Biswas

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for enlightening the nation.

The President underlined the importance of the democratic norms and ideals to consolidate the hard earned democracy in the country.

President Biswas announced that his secretariat would give awards to those teachers engaged in the compulsory primary education for their outstanding performances.

The function was addressed, among others, by Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman and Divisional Commissioner M. Aminul Islam.

It was informed that about 82 per cent school going children have been enrolled in schools in the division for providing them primary education.

Earlier, President Biswas visited the holy shrine of Hazrat Shah Wali Niamutullah (RA) at Gour in the Shibganj Thana of Chapainawabganj district and offered fateha there. He also released fish fries in the ponds of the mazar.

The President also visited the graveyard at the historic Sona Masjid where the bodies of Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir 'Bir' Shrestha and Major Nazmul Haque Tulu who embraced martyrdom during the country's liberation war, are laid.

Addressing a gathering at the Sona Masjid premises, the President called upon all to imbue themselves with the ideals and sacrifice of the martyrs of the liberation war.

He said the freedom fighters sacrificed their life for democracy and country's peace and progress and to enable us to hold our heads erect as an independent nation.

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