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President Iajuddin Ahmed gives away medals to the teachers for their significant contribution to different fields in education at a function marking the National Teachers' Day 2003 yesterday.

## Ensure human resources development: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday suggested placing entire focus of educational system on human resources development through modern and scientific education to turn Bangladesh into a self-reliant country.

The president also called for arranging proper lessons for students in classrooms to make them worthy citizens.

"Everybody - teachers, guardians and respectable personalities - has a duty to ensure human resources development through effective schooling," the President said while inaugurating state programme on the National Teachers' Day at BLAM auditorium in the city.

Education Minister Dr. M Osman Farruk, State Minister ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon and Deputy Minister Mohammad Abdus Salam Pintu also addressed the function chaired by Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam.

Explaining the significance of the day, the president said January 19 was declared as the National Teachers' Day as it is the birthday of late president Ziaur Rahman, the proclaimer of country's independence.

He called upon the teachers' community to devote themselves to nation-building mission being inspired with the ideals of President Zia.

He appreciated the teachers' role in checking copying in last year's public examinations, saying that this move would inspire guardians and other people to promote a congenial atmosphere of education.

To lead the country towards development, the president laid importance on expansion of education and promoting quality of

education and values. "There is no alternative to devoted, responsible and resourceful teachers in educational institutions," he said.

The president also suggested ensuring accountability in the administration in education sector and proper monitoring.

He urged all to come forward to help develop the learners' inner qualities, their moral spirit and do everything for their employment and self-reliance.

President Iajuddin Ahmed listed various welfare programmes for the teachers, undertaken by the government. The steps include retirement benefit for non-government teachers, financial benefit through Teachers' Welfare Trust, promotion of 1025 government college teachers, recruitment of 1009 high school teachers and teacher-training programme.

The president congratulated five teachers who received National Teachers' Day Medal 2003 for their special contribution and said this achievement would also inspire others and enhance image of the teachers in the country.