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Raise literacy rate to 40 p c: Ershad

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said here on Sunday that the government was determined to bring about basic changes in the education system to suit the requirements of the country, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the "Prathamik Shikha Bhavan" at Mirpur, the President said this objective would be fulfilled by the government in cooperation with the teachers.

He said "we want to build an educated nation and for that I myself will extend all possible cooperation and I hope the teachers would also offer their dedicated service".

President Ershad sought the cooperation of the teachers to raise the present literacy rate of 20 per cent to 40 per cent within two to three years time. The government would improve the infrastructure facilities to achieve this objective, he said.

The President said the government has put emphasis on primary education since literacy rate of a nation is determined by the effectiveness of primary education and not by the number of doctors and engineers it produces.

He described the teachers as the conscious section of the society and said that was why they had been making all out efforts to provide education to the future generations. "Let us put in our united efforts to

remove the curse of illiteracy from the society to build a happy country", he said.

President Ershad said the politics being pursued by the his government was not only to improve the quality of life of the people but also to make the nation literate.

Referring to the unnecessary criticism of the budget for the coming financial year, the President said the government had allocated Taka 1160 crore for education alone which is the highest so far in this sector.

He said side by side the criticism of the budget some elements had questioned the acceptance of foreign aid. At the same time they have opposed imposition of taxes, he said.

The President said even many developed countries of the world like Japan, West Germany and Korea had accepted foreign aid to develop their countries. In this context, he mentioned the formation of Group of 77 and said this group of the developing countries had come together to put pressure on the developed nations to provide aid to them for development.

He said this was the manifestation of the fact that the developing nations require foreign assistance for their development. Otherwise, he said they would not have made such a group to seek aid from the developed countries.

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