



The Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General H.M. Ershad addressing the government and the non-government College, School and Dhaka districts in Dhaka on Monday.

Teachers are gem of society's crown

Help maintain academic atmosphere : Ershad

By A Staff Correspondent

The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad on Monday called upon the teachers to help the Government in maintaining healthy and normal academic atmosphere and discipline in the country's educational institutions. "Education is the backbone of a nation and we cannot allow any one to desecrate the sanctity of the seats of learning", the CMLA added.

Speaking as the chief guest at a special conference of the Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity Federation (a body of the Government and non-Government college, school and madrasa teachers) at Mohakhali on the day, the CMLA praised the teachers for their efforts in the spread of education. He said that the future of the nation will be bleak if "we fail to give proper education to our children".

Gen. Ershad said that it is the teachers who develop human beings into complete men and women by infusing knowledge, patriotism and discipline in them. The teachers are the symbol of the hopes and aspirations of a nation, he said and added that their social position stands next only to parents.

He said a section of teachers in the highest seats of learning, were trying to disturb the normal functioning of the institutions by abstaining from taking classes and instigating the students to violent actions to achieve their selfish goals. They have betrayed the cause of the nation and failed in the performance of their sacred responsibility by such deeds be maintained.

ers and will tell the nation what wrongs are going on in the sacred arena of the highest seat of learning," the CMLA said.

He said that the nation spends Taka 12 crore to Taka 14 crore annually for running the Dhaka University. The university has a teaching staff of 837 of whom 149 are overstaying in foreign countries, Gen. Ershad said. He further pointed out that about 256 teachers do not have the requisite qualifications to become university teachers.

The CMLA said that this

section of the teachers who are the product of a particular political group, are trying to have a government within the government in the name of exercising autonomy. He said that as the head of the Government he has to explain the exact condition prevailing in the universities as the fund for running the universities are provided by the people. He said that the people and the Government have the right to know the affairs of these institutions and under the pretext of autonomy such affairs cannot be kept concealed from the people.

Talking about the students

he said that every educational institution he visited he found the students eager to learn and that they were not responsible for the present state of affairs in the university. He said that the students were rather victims of ill-motives of a section of teachers.

Citing an example of wrong doing in some of the universities, he said that a plot of land belonging to the university has been transferred to a private owner without the knowledge of the government. Such affairs must not be allowed to continue and rule of law has to be restored he asserted.

Seeking the cooperation of the members of the Teachers Federation in the restoration of a healthy academic atmosphere doing away with the prevailing "undesirable atmosphere" in the highest educational institutions he said that "Inshallah, we will restore sanctity and discipline".

The CMLA said that the nation will march ahead to the path of progress if we remain united and work unitedly to the attainment of our cherished goal—economic emancipation. None will be able to destroy us if we remain united he said.

Reiterating his Government's determination for restoration (Continued on page 12 col. 4)

These teachers are not guided by their conscience, rather they are trying to create turbulence and chaos and thus pushing the country towards destruction, the CMLA said.

Posing a question he wanted to know against whom the university teachers were bringing out processions. "If required I shall publish the list of the underqualified university teach

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of healthy academic atmosphere in the educational institutions, he said that such atmosphere is prevailing everywhere excepting in some highest seats of learning. He said that the torch of learning has to be spread to the nook and corner of the country to ensure socio-economic emancipation of the people to make the independence (fruitful) and meaningful for all.

He said that alien forces were trying to use the students as instrumental for creating social disorder with a view to undermining the independence. The independence and sovereignty, earned through blood shed cannot be undone if we are not alive to the conspiracies, he reiterated.

He said that the Government will introduce people oriented work biased and pragmatic universal education in the country. The responsibility of the primary education has been transferred to the thana administration for improving its condition he said.

If we cannot raise the standard of our primary education, we cannot live as a self-respecting nation, he further said.

He said that necessary steps will be taken to train the imams of the mosques to impart education to the rural children. He said that the Government will take the responsibility of paying the salary of all non-Government teachers in phases for smooth expansion of education in the country.

Describing the teachers as the 'gem of the crown' of the society, Gen. Ershad declared amidst cheers of the audience, that directive would be issued so that the teachers are not required to get character certificates. He said that his Government is determined to restore the social prestige of the teachers.

He said that the present Government has launched jihad against corruption. His Government has been able to eradicate it through concerted efforts Government to machinery which was infested with the vice before the taking over by the present Government.

The CMLA sought the cooperation of all to uproot corruption from the society once and for all.

Maulana M. A. Mannan Secretary General Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity, Shahidullah Principal Tofavel Ahmed Mr. A. Khan, Prof. Ali Reza, Mr. A. Khan, Prof. M. Shahidur, Mr. A. Khan also addressed the conference on behalf of their respective associations.

Maulana Mannan read out resolutions for raising the status of the members of the teaching profession. His proposal includes regularisation of newly nationalised government of different categories of teachers etc.

He said that the 1972 Constitution of the country is not being raised when it is being raised by political parties who

of government. He said Khondoker Mushtaq Ahmed who himself was President under presidential form is now also demanding the return of 1972 Constitution which only can be described as hoax.

Gen. Ershad said the question on the form of government was twice decided by the people when President Zia fought presidential election against General Osmany seeking people's verdict on the form of government and ultimately winning the verdict by a big margin and again during the election race between President Sattar and Dr. Kamal Hossain where Sattar came out elected winning verdict in favor of presidential system.

The CMLA said how can he override the verdict of the people by returning to 1972 constitution. If people desire through a formal means only then it can be done he added.

He said the political parties are speaking of the 72 Constitution only to bluff the people. He urged the people to identify the politicians who ruled the country but had little relation between their words and deeds.

Gen. Ershad warned that any designs by any quarters to create disorder in the society would be nipped in the bud.

Referring to the recent detection of smuggling bid at the Zia International Airport the CMLA said an enquiry committee has been instituted to bring the culprits to book. The culprits connected with the smuggling bid will be tried in an open court headed by a civilian judge he said.