

53

## Private Teachers Welfare Trust Bill okayed

By A Staff Reporter

The Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday unanimously passed the "Establishment of Private Teachers and Employees Welfare Trust Bill, 1990" with an assurance from Prime Minister and Leader of the House Kazi Zafar Ahmed that the government of President Ershad would do everything to accord highest social status to the teachers.

The Bill aims at extending benefits to the retired teachers, to the disabled teachers and to the families of those falling victim of accidents and to those who suffered from prolonged illness.

Describing teachers as architects of a nation, the Prime Minister said that President Ershad had done many things to improve their lot through financial support. The contribution of the President in this respect would be written in golden letters in our national history, he said.

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam narrated the steps taken by the present government to ensure a better present and future for the teachers.

The 13-member Board of Trustees will be headed by the Education Secretary with head quarters in Dhaka. The fund of the trust, among others, will constitute the teachers and employees contributions determined by the Welfare Trust.

Earlier, six members of the opposition—Shahjahan Siraj, Abdul Matin Mia, Nooruddin SM, Nuruzzaman, Mukhtar Ahmed and Aaur Rahman participated in the debate. They congratulated the Education Minister on bringing the legislation.

Winding up the bill, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said its passage in the House without any note of dissent added another feather to the cap of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad who accorded the highest social status to the teaching community of this country.

Quoting the President he said a nation which does not honour its teachers could not be des-

cribed as civilised. In fact, the contributions of our President for enhancing the dignity of the teaching community would be written in golden letters in history, he added.

Listing the steps taken by the present government for the benefit of teachers, the Leader of the House said even 80 per cent of the salary of the teachers of non-government secon-

Contd. on page 8 col. 2

## Welfare Trust

Contd. from page 1

dry schools and colleges was met from the national exchequer. Facilities for primary school teachers had also been increased manifold, he said adding President Ershad had taken upon himself the leadership of establishing the teaching com-

The Leader of the House said the interests of the teachers always remained uppermost in the mind of President Ershad. He never forgot the sad plight of his primary school teacher, Mofiz Master, he added.

He was happy to announce that President Ershad had given a piece of land at Cox's Bazar for the establishment of a sanatorium and a hospit-

al for the teachers. The President pledged to sanction Taka one crore for the welfare of the teachers 18 months ago and he had fulfilled his promise, he said.

The leader of the House said the whole nation and the entire teaching community expressed their gratitude to President Ershad for what he had done for the teachers.

He recalled that when he was the Education Minister in 1978 he had a dream to do something positive for the teachers so that they could live a decent life. What he could not do at that time was now going to be implemented at the initiative of President Ershad, he added.

Defending the bill Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the passing of the bill would usher in a new era for the teaching community of the country. He explained that with the implementation of the bill the teaching community would be benefited immensely and they would no longer suffer from financial difficulties.