

7

One lakh cadets to be raised: Ershad

Colleges, varsities will teach military science

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President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said in Dhaka Wednesday that side by side the armed forces, the youth community with military training could safeguard national independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

Addressing the annual parade of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps at the Ershad National Square, the President said the responsibility of protecting the independence and sovereignty of the country lay with the armed forces but the spontaneous participation of the youths in this noble cause would establish us as a self-respecting strong nation in the world community.

President Ershad took the salute from the parade commanded by Major Dr. Mohammad Sahadat Ali and participated by Ramna Regiment, Karnaphuli Regiment, Mainamati Regiment, Mahastan Regiment, Naval Branch and Air Branch.

He also reviewed the impressive parade which included contingents of Girl Cadets from different parts of the country.

The parade was witnessed by Vice-President Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Maudud Ahmed, Ministers, chiefs of three services, diplomats and high civil and military officers.

On arrival at the parade ground, the President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, was received by Defence Secretary Mohammad Shamsul Huq Chishti, and Director of BNCC BRIG Mohammad Ainuddin.

The President said the basic principle of the BNCC was to build worthy future generations through development of leadership, discipline, honesty and unity. "Today's youths are the leaders of tomorrow", he said, adding, "This is the proper time to build them."

He referred to his announcement in the last year's annual parade of the BNCC about increasing the number of cadets, and said with that end in view approval had been given to enroll 15,000 new cadets this year. He announced that the strength of the BNCC would be raised to one lakh soon.

The President said the country's youth had the glorious tradition of playing a pioneering role in the great War of Independence. Their exam-

See Page 10 Col. 6

Ershad

From Page 1 Col. 4

ples of bravery would remain as a source of inspiration for the nation, he said.

He said the country belongs to us all and hence direct and indirect participation of the people of all strata in the state activities for achieving progress and prosperity of the nation was essential.

Role of students lauded

President Ershad said the student community imbued with the spirit of patriotism should come forward to play again a pioneering role in the development of the country. He said the BNCC was created to build the students of schools, colleges and universities properly keeping that objective in view.

He expressed the hope that the programme of the BNCC would be expanded and all the educational institutions in the country would be brought under its fold.

The President said the government had taken up various programmes so that the BNCC could perform smoothly their responsibility toward the progress, prosperity and defence of the country.

He said a scientific and realistic education policy was being introduced to relieve the youths from the curse of frustration and aversion to work.

President Ershad said, we have been making efforts to keep the educational institutions free from party politics because we do not want that the whole education system be sunk in the quicksand.

He said the government was contemplating to introduce military science in the colleges and universities and to open military faculty in the universities.