



Make nation literate: Ershad

Steps taken for teachers' welfare

PAKSHI, Nov. 28.—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad here today called upon the teachers to take a fresh vow for making allout efforts to establish Bangladesh as a nation of literate people in the world, reports BSS.

Addressing the mammoth grand conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA), the President said with a view to educating the nation, the welfare and rights of the teachers should have to be ensured.

In the course of his speech, President Ershad announced a number of measures for the welfare of the primary teachers as well as to improve primary education which included acceptance in principle the plea for an integrated pay scale for primary teachers, creation of the post of assistant headmaster for primary schools, stoppage of deduction of the increased salary taken by the graduate primary teachers and assurance for allotment of land for the hospital and recreation centre at Cox's Bazar for the primary teachers. He also announced that the government would take steps for raising the contribution of the primary teachers from Taka 2 to Taka 10 towards their welfare trust fund as it had been desired unanimously by the primary teachers themselves.

The grand conference held on the

bank of the river Padma and at the foothills of the giant Harding Bridge was attended by about one and a half lakh primary teachers from all over the country who listened to the President with rapt attention amidst heavy showers.

The huge gathering applauded the President with clappings and welcome slogans who flew in here defying inclement weather and disregarding personal safety to attend the conference which had demonstrated his love and respect for the teachers.

The conference was also addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Political Adviser to the President Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, President of BPTA Prof. Abul Kalam Azad and General Secretary of the BPTA Kazi A.K. Fazlul Huq.

Raise literacy rate

The President said to achieve the objective of educating the people to make the nation literate, we must look after the welfare of the teachers and thus establish peace in their minds. "If we can achieve this objective, these dedicated teachers would very soon establish Bangladesh as a nation of literate people in the world", he said.

He said despite efforts made by

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President Ershad addressing the grand conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association at Paksey on Monday.

Teachers' welfare

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the government the literacy rate was still between twenty and thirty per cent. He sought advice from the teachers for raising the literacy rate so that the nation would become proud and said we wanted to prove to the world that we are a poor nation but not illiterate.

Referring to the indiscipline in the educational arena, President Ershad said for this primary schools were not responsible. But he said, being the friend, philosopher and guide of the rural people, primary teachers, could play an important role in imbibing them against indiscipline in educational arena.

He said the people of the country neither wanted indiscipline in educational institutions nor they wanted copying, they did not want to see their children engaged in politics, he said adding: they want to educate their children, build them as worthy citizens and establish them in the society.

The President mentioned about the recurrence of floods in the country and said, "we do not want floods anymore and we want to live", he said at the same time Bangladesh wanted its just share of water of the

river Ganges and called upon the countries of the region to give us the share of our water as well as make efforts for the solution of the problem of floods.

He said the people of Bangladesh do not want any mercy from anybody other than the Almighty Allah, they wanted to stand on their own feet through hard work, he said adding: our objective was to seek assistance to stand on our own feet as soon as possible. We do not want to remain dependent on others for a long, he said.

Allocation of primary education to be raised

The President said decision had been taken to increase the allocation of primary education out of the budget for education sector from the existing 40 per cent to more than 50 per cent. This step had been taken to provide education to grassroots level to achieve the objective of education for all by 2000, he said.

The President of BPTA Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, categorically said the developments taking place in education and other sectors during the period of President Ershad had no parallel in the history of this country. He said he have now got a strong leader who could solve our problems including those of the floods and waters.