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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 Hardinge 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 clapping 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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