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President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad is seen addressing the grand convention of Bangladesh Teachers Association at Bakshi Bazar on Wednesday.

—OBSERVER

Pay hike for non-govt teachers: Ershad

Make education meaningful

By A Staff Correspondent

The President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad on Wednesday said that education was a fundamental right and it is recognised by the suspended constitution and as such it is the foremost duty of the Government to secure this right.

The President was inaugurating the grand conference of the Bangladesh Teachers Association at Bakshibazar Alia Madrasah premises on the day with its President Mr. Abdul Mannan in the chair. The conference was also attended by Education Minister Dr. A. Majeed Khan as special guest, Health Minister Maj. Gen. M. Shamsul Huq, Food Minister Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A.G. Mahmood and Maj. Gen. M. Hobbat Jan Chowdhury, Minister for Establishment and re-organisation. The inaugural function was addressed by Secretary of the association Mr. Abdul Khaleq and Vice-President Sheikh Armanullah.

General Ershad said that the future education system will be a combination of technology, religion and culture to suit the appropriateness of present day demand. The President announced that the Government has taken up steps to introduce welfare oriented education namely community learning centre for social activities and

community schools for technological education. The main objective of education is to make it meaningful and realistic, the President added.

While the community learning centres will be the focal point of social development co-ordination, the community schools will be technology-oriented education extension centres.

Highlighting the financial problems of school teachers and specially the non-Government teachers, General Ershad said that a special wage increment will be extended to all the teachers serving in the non-Government schools.

The President donated a sum of Taka five lakh to the association and assured that more financial assistance from the Government will be available in future. In order to remove the disparities between teachers of Government and non-Government schools, the Government from the current month will disburse medical allowance for non-Government teachers at the rate (Taka 60 each month) Government teachers are receiving presently. The method of disbursing monthly salaries will also be simplified, the President assured. Given the necessary incentives, it will be the duty of the teachers to educate the students in a way befitting for them to grow up as worthy and useful citizens.

Dr. Majeed Khan announced

that awards will be introduced at the national level for the best teacher as a mark of respect for the profession.

He assured that the anomalies prevailing in the academic institutions will soon be shelved to create congenial atmosphere. Dr. Khan underscored the need for meaningful education for the students.