

More cluster village soon: Ershad

All city schools reopen Nov 1

DHAKA, Oct 25 (BSS): President Hussain Muhammad Ershad declared here today that the schools in the city would be reopened from November 1.

Addressing a big spontaneous gathering near City Palli at Saidabad he said the educational institutions in the capital were closed down for the safety of the children in the face of violence and terrorism created by some opposition political parties from October 10.

The President, however, told

the crowd that the opposition movement was gradually diminishing because of no response from the masses. The opposition, he said, had failed to earn support from the people in the last 14 days and their upazila gherao programme was a total failure.

President Ershad said there are 100 political parties in the country but they could not mobilise 50 people on an average to back up their programmes.

The President cautioned the

people against the evil design of some opposition parties who, he said, were out to create chaos to increase sufferings of the toiling masses.

He said the parties which had been in power in the past had killed thousands of political opponents including the freedom fighters and sent to jail thousands other. Amid applause President Ershad said "there is not even a single political prisoner in any jail of the country at present."

Contd. on page 8 col. 2

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Contd from page 1

LGRD Minister and Mayor of Dhaka city Naziur Rahman was present.

President Ershad said during the last few days wherever he had gone people in thousands had greeted him and they demanded action against destructive activities of some political parties which caused national loss and untold human miseries.

He told the cheering crowd that there was no room for terrorism in the country rather the opposition, he said, should follow the constitutional path as it was the only means to change the government.

President Ershad said his government had earned love and support of the people as it had been working for their welfare.

President Ershad said his government had established city pallis to rehabilitate the slum dwellers and pointed out that for the education of their children and others a Pathakali school and a

vocational training school were being set up in the area.

He said it was not possible to rehabilitate all the slum dwellers in city pallis. Therefore, the President added, the people who had come to the city after losing their homes and hearth due to erosion in the rivers needed rehabilitation in their villages through the establishment of more cluster villages.

He said, the government was also taking programme in this regard. President Ershad said his government had also solved the housing problems of the sweepers.

The President visited the underconstruction Pathakali school and the vocational training school—the two institutions being set up at his directive—and saw the progress of work. These two schools are being built by Dhaka Municipal Corporation.

He went to a kutchi bazar in the area and enquired about the price and supply of essentials

there.

The President saw the work of the Shishu Park and a playground at Saidabad and expressed his satisfaction at the progress of work.

On his way back the President passed through the Saidabad-Khilgaon-Rampura Road and expressed satisfaction at the progress of construction of the road which is almost completed.

Works Secretary M.A. Rouf was present.

Earlier, President Ershad visited the new office building of the Jatiya Mahila Party at Dhanmondi.

The President was shown different rooms there and the arrangements. On his arrival at the Mahila Party office he was greeted by leaders and workers there.

Begum Mariam Hashimuddin and Prof. Tawfiq Karim, Chairperson and Secretary General of the organisation were present.