



President Hussain Muhammad Ershad addressing a grand conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association at Paksey on Monday.

Ershad announces welfare steps at BPTA confce

Bangladesh be made

nation of literates

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

Addressing the 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 head master 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 pri-

mary 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

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Nation of literates

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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.

Thousands of primary teachers who started pouring into this small township since last two days from far and near by various means of communication turned into a human sea this morning who burst into thunderous applause as President Ershad appeared on the dais.

The conference was also ad-

dressed by Deputy Prime Min-

ister 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.

The President said to achieve

the objective of educating the

people to make the nation literate, we must look after the wel-

fare 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 the Government the litera-

cy rate was still between 20

and 30 per cent. He sought ad-

vice from the teachers for rai-

sing 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.

INDISCIPLINE

Referring to the indiscipline in the educational arena, Presi-

dent Ershad said for this pri-

mary schools were not respon-

sible. But, he said, being the

friend philosopher and guide

of the rural people, primary

teachers could play an impor-

tant role in preparing them

against indiscipline in educa-

tional arena.

He said the people of the

country neither wanted indis-

cipline in educational institu-

tions 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.

RECURRING FLOODS

The President mentioned

about the recurrence of floods

in the country and said. "We

do not want floods any more

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 re-

gion to give us the share of

their water as well as make

efforts for the solution of the

problem of floods.

He called upon the people of

the country to join hands

and said if the 10 crore people

could make efforts unitedly

success was ensured to unite

President Ershad referred to

his visits abroad and said the

conscience of the world had

been riven less to see our

country in such a calamitous

position. As a result, he said

all the countries of the world

had come to our help with sup-

port to solve our problems.

He said the people of Bang-

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