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Campus to be arms-free: PM

KHULNA, Oct. 22 (BSS): Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said here today that anarchy in the campuses posed a grave threat to the future of the nation and the Government of President Ershad was determined to make it free of arms.

Kazi Zafar was speaking at a reception accorded to him by teachers and students of Khulna Zila School from which he had matriculated in 1955.

The Prime Minister said the academic atmosphere must be improved and better teacher-student relationship restored to help upgrade the standard of institutional education.

He said the nature of student activities should also change so that students could think as an independent force and did not become lackeys of political parties.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Khulna Abdul Muktadir Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed by Civil Aviation Minister Lt Col (Retd) H M A Gaffar, BU Khulna University Vice Chancellor Dr Ghulam Rahman, journalists Monirul Huda and Liaquat Ali and Syed Mahboob Ali and Moulana Nakibuddin Ahmed, former head master and assistant teacher of Khulna Zila School who had been teaching at the institution when Kazi Zafar was a student there.

The Prime Minister said students should equip themselves with sound education and skill to be able to render meaningful service to the nation.

He said as future leaders they must be very learned so that they were able to provide effective leadership and guide the nation onward to goals of still higher and higher level of development and prosperity.

Kazi Zafar advised the students to draw lessons from nature, tradition and teachers besides books, to attain the purpose of education.

He also advised them to respect teachers unfailingly reminding them that a people who did not respect their teachers were not actually civilised whatever might be their degrees.

Paying tributes to the teachers, Kazi Zafar said teachers, who worked silently to broaden the intellectual base of a

nation, are the actual architects of any society.

He said, teachers should be placed in the highest social spectrum in recognition of their service and to enthuse the brilliant people to join this noble profession.

Earlier on arrival, at the auditorium of the Zila School, the Prime Minister took the crowd at the reception by surprise when he touched the feet of his former head master Syed Mahbub Ali and assistant teacher Moulana Nakibuddin Ahmed, in paying respects to them.

The bearded former head master, now bent by his age

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of 87 years was overwhelmed by the gesture of his former student. He later said in a short speech that the respect paid to him by the Prime Minister was the biggest ever prize he received for his being a teacher.

He said the Prime Minister actually paid a glowing tribute to the entire teaching community by making this gesture of respect to his former teacher. This was now a fading phenomenon in the present days, he said.