

DU remained closed for 4.5 yrs during 80-87: Ershad

Campus sanctity for quality education must

By A Staff Reporter

President H.M. Ershad on Friday urged all concerned, particularly teachers, to make a strong pledge to restore sanctity on the educational campus and ensure an atmosphere congenial to quality education.

The President was speaking as chief guest at the triennial national representative conference of Bangladeshi Teachers Association (BTA) at the Shilpakala auditorium.

"We want a production-oriented education which is suited to the need of time. At the same time we want to go back to the good old days when teachers earned both respect and fear from the students", the President said.

Turning to the situation in universities, President Ershad said:

"When we were students of col-

leges we used to dream about

Dhaka University. It was a great

privilege to be a student of

Dhaka University at that time.

But if I were a college student

these days, I would not dare

to dream about Dhaka University

where violence and session jarr are daily events".

He said that Dhaka University had remained closed for four and a half years between 1980 and 1987. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for 472 days during the period between 1980-81 and 1985-86 and Rajshahi University classes were suspended for 242 days last year.

President Ershad said that the nation had to suffer a loss of

Taka 133.62 crore due to session

jam in universities.

The President said that the Government spent Taka 1,136

per month for a university stu-

dent and the amount came

through the sacrifice of 5.67

crore poor people of the coun-

try.

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

On the Dhaka University Ordinance of 1973, the President said

that under the ordinance, things

had turned out to be a "one-

way traffic". "The Government

will provide fund to universities,

but it will not be allowed to

see whether the money is being

spent properly". He said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) which was empowered to look into the accounts of universities under the ordinance also did not get details of the accounts of universities.

Universities, President Ershad

said, "are considered to be the

powerhouse of a nation" where

talents would assemble from all

over the country. But what is

happening in the university, tea-

chers are appointed through

vote, not on the basis of their

qualification and ability, the Pre-

sident said.

"People avoid university area.

Even women whom we respect

as our mothers and sisters are

insulted there. We just cannot

send our children there to get

an education that teaches them

to insult women", the President

said.

The President called upon the

teachers to help restore a con-

genial atmosphere and ensure

quality education in educational

institutions.

The conference of BTA was

Contd.

Campus sanctity

Con. from page 1

also addressed by Deputy Prime

Minister and Political Adviser to

the President Kazi Zafar Ahmed,

Education Minister Anisul Islam

Mahmud and president and sec-

retary of BTA. Deputy Prime

Minister Dr. M.A. Matin, Minis-

ters, high government officials

were present at the function.

President Ershad regretted

that students often put barri-

cades on roads and railway lines

demanding nationalisation of col-

leges or right to copying in ex-

aminations. And in the process,

thousands of passengers of trains

and other vehicles suffered due

to the blockade, he said.

Turning to the poor literacy

rate of the country, President

Ershad said it was a matter of

shame for the nation that its

literacy rate was as low as 30

per cent. He said that though

Bangladesh had established it-

self at various international

field, its rural population were

still illiterate. He stressed on

the improvement of primary

education and said that im-

provement of primary educa-

tion would help raise literacy

rate.

The President said that the

government did not want to

impose recommendations of the

Education Commission consti-

tuted last year. He said that

there would be discussions,

seminars and symposia on the

Education Commission report

before its implementation. Re-

ferring to the efforts taken by

his government for improving

the condition of the teachers,

the President said that Islam

as a religion had put education

and teachers to high esteem.

He said that he had tried his

best within limited resources

of the country to improve the

socio-economic status of the

teachers.

President Ershad declared a

grant of Taka one crore to the

benevolent fund of the teach-

ers.

Referring to the current

year's flood, the President said

that this year people were not

afraid since they had been

feeling confident remembering

the successful handling of

devastating flood last year. He

said this year the government

had made forward planning in

terms of finance & food stock.

BSS adds: speaking on the

occasion, Deputy Prime Minis-

ter and Political Adviser to the

President, Kazi Zafar Ahmed,

called upon the teachers to

maintain their unity under the

leadership of President Ershad

for realising their demands as

well as achieving recognition

in the society.

Kazi Zafar recalled that Pre-

sident Ershad had created a

unique history in the country

by decorating the post of the

Chairman of Bangladesh Fed-

eration of Teachers Association

and said it was because of Pre-

sident Ershad, the teachers of

the country had started learning

to stand with their heads up

the economic condition of the

teachers had also improved con-

siderably during the rule of

President Ershad, he added.

In his speech Education Minis-

ter, Anisul Islam Mahmud

called upon the teachers to

perform their noble responsibil-

ities teaching the students with

a missionary zeal.

The Education Minister re-

called the contribution of the

present government under the

dynamic leadership of Presi-

dent Ershad for the improve-

ment of the education as well

as the teaching communit

and said that time had

come to evaluate the qualita-

of education in the country.

Date 17 JUL 1988

Page

17 JUL 1988

Page

17 JUL 1988

Page