

073

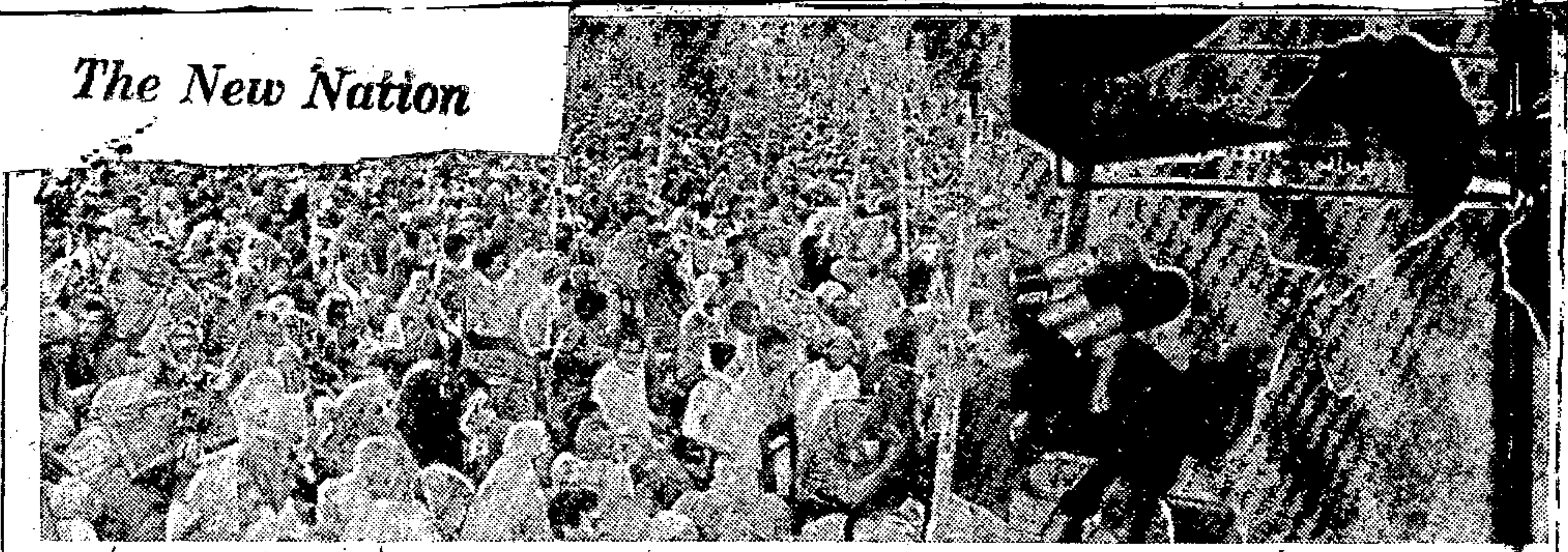
## Nation must be made literate : Ershad

PAKSHI, Nov 28 (BSS): President H M 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. Addressing the mammoth 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. Contd. on page 8 col 4

The New Nation



President Ershad addressing the grand conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association at Pakshi yesterday.

## Ershad

Contd from page 1

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 primary teachers from Tk 2 to Tk 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 conference was also addressed by Deputy Prime Minister 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 welfare 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 literacy rate was still between 20 and 30 per cent. He sought advice from the teachers for raising 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.

Referring to the indiscipline in the educational arena, President Ershad said for this primary schools were not responsible. But, said he, being the friend, philosopher and guide of the rural people, primary teachers could play an important role in imbibing them against indiscipline in educational arena.

He said the people of the country neither wanted discipline in educational institutions 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.

The President mentioned about the recurrence of floods in the country and said, "we do not want floods anymore 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 region to give us the share of our water as well as make efforts for the solution of the problem

education for all by 2000, he said.

He said education for all by 2000 was not a political slogan, rather, it was a firm belief. He expressed his firm conviction that the primary teachers would play an important role to materialise this objective.

President Ershad said the number of Ph. Ds, M. As and B. As did not determine a nation's literacy rate. A literate nation means that the general people could read and write, he said adding: we must make efforts to make the general people literate.

### ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

Pointing to a banner for setting up Islamic University in Kushtia President Ershad said all out efforts would be made by his government to fulfil the aspirations of the people in this regard.

He said he had accepted in principle the proposal for an integrated pay scale for the primary teachers and gave the responsibility to Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who is the chairman of the council committee for removing the anomalies in pay scales to take up the matter.

He said the deduction of the increased salary given to the graduate primary teachers would be stopped. He, however, asked all concerned not to commit such mistake in future which might increase their hardship.

The President announced a grant of Tk two lakh for the family of Ahsanullah Chowdhury, a primary teacher of Gualundo, who died in an accident yesterday while on his way to Pakshi to attend the conference.

### KAZI ZAFAR

Addressing the conference, Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the objective of education was to hasten development and increase production. Similarly, he said the negative politics pursued by past government had also been changed under the leadership of President Ershad resulting in the generation of dynamism in all sectors of production and development.

### ANISUL ISLAM

Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the policy of the government of President Ershad was to ensure education for all by the year 2000 and hence it had given priority to this sector. Our objective is to make the country more stronger by providing our children proper education, he said.

### ABUL KALAM AZAD

The President of BPTA Mr Abul Kalam Azad categorically said the developments taking place in education and other

M/S. Dart Express and Pro-Dhaka and by cargo agents GONG and Beacon Travels Agents - Cruise Express Carriers