

Trust fund for Primary teachers



President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad addressing the 3rd grand national conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association at Railway Ground in Dhaka on Friday.

—Times

By A Staff Reporter

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Friday called upon the primary teachers to reach the light of learning to every house in the country.

Addressing the third grand national conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association that lent total and unconditional support to the programme of the Government, the President said: "You should spread out in every nook and corner of the country to eradicate the curse of illiteracy".

Amidst thunderous welcome slogans, President Ershad said that he would always remain with the teachers and see to it that never again they were subjected to neglect and sufferings.

The President said that it was a matter of shame that the teachers were to go for movement for "those who sent you to jails did injustice", he said.

"I was eagerly awaiting to hear your demands", General Ershad said in an emotion choked voice. "My door will always remain open for you to solve problems by way of discussion", he added.

He declared that primary teachers would continue as government servants. "There might be lapses, but those could be removed", he said.

Sharply criticising those who were saying that by decentralising administration corruption was spread to the villages, the President said that this amounted to dishonouring all Government officials because all of them were not corrupt.

There were now talks about democracy of which "I myself am a proponent" the President reminded all that he had to take over power from the corrupt government at the instance of the people.

There was no need for further agitations because the present Government eagerly wanted to remove the grievances of all sections of the people, he said.

Referring to the demands of the primary teachers Gen. Ershad announced a decision to set-up a trust fund for welfare of primary teachers initially donating Taka 20 lakh towards it. Earlier Prof. Abul Kamal Azad, President, Primary Teachers' Association, proposed that the trust fund be named after Gen. Ershad.

The President announced a

Contd. on page 8 col. 3

Contd from page 1

donation of Taka 50 thousand for the families of each of the three teachers who died in accidents on way to the grand conference in Dhaka on Thursday, and Taka 12 lakh towards the association.

He assured that quota system would be introduced for dependents of primary teachers for appointment in primary schools. The duration of primary teachers training would again be made one year, he said adding advance increment for teachers with higher academic background would be allowed without any condition. The President also assured that measures would be taken to return the Qaomi Jute Mills to the association.

Earlier in his address the President of the association Prof Abul Kalam Azad announced his association's total and unconditional support to the programmes of President Ershad.