

Govt keen on improving lot of pry. teachers

The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. HM. Ershad on Saturday laid the foundation stone of "Shikkhak Bhaban" of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association at Mirpur describing it as the national recognition to the importance of teachers and their esteemed place in the society, reports BSS.

Gen. Ershad said, the present Government has always been aware of this ideal and endeavoured to bring an improvement in the present plight of teachers and establish them in the position they deserved in any civilised country.

The CMLA recalled his childhood and the days when he was first taken to the school for primary education. "I still remember the serene face and the affectionate expression of my headmaster popularly known as Mofiz Master whose dedication, honesty and love for education and students acted as an inspiration throughout my life. Many days have elapsed since then and I have been searching for the zeal and ideals of that headmaster. I have found those in you and I want you all to go back to your respective places with the same zeal and ideals which can inspire the future generation to equip themselves with real education and knowledge to become worthy citizens of the country," he asserted.

Gen. Ershad said "it pained me to see the pathetic condition of teachers and educational institutions. It also pained me to see teachers are to come out on the streets for bare necessities of life. It gives me

the shock of my life when I see big difference between the honour and professional security enjoyed by the teachers in the advanced countries like Great Britain and United States and those in our country."

He said we are determined to change the present situation in new Bangladesh and ensure a respectable life for our teachers who kindle the light of education and knowledge.

Referring to the plight of primary education, the CMLA said 60 per cent of the children drop out in between class one and class two and hardly 13 per cent reach the class five level. What a frustrating scene, he questioned adding, "we must do something to reverse this scene. We must save the country from this situation. It is your responsibility to achieve this objective. It is not sufficient to make the primary education universal, compulsory and free. You will have to discharge your duties with total dedication. This is

more true after you have been recognised as Government employee."

Gen. Ershad said, the children of today are the children of an independent country. They will have to be brought up against this back ground. Our new education proposals aimed at giving real education and making the future generation capable of facing the challenge of time and meeting the requirements of the country. We need an educational system which can keep pace with the changed requirements and which will help our children to know our country, its history, religion and culture and build it on a solid foundation and earn honour for it.

The CMLA called for united efforts to spread the 'real education' to the nook and corner of the country and make it a better place to live in.

Earlier small school children presented the CMLA with bouquet after an impressive dance and musical performance. Some poems composed by Gen. Ershad were also recited.

The primary school teachers greeted the CMLA with welcome slogans and expressed their whole hearted support to his development programmes (Continued on page 8 col. 5)

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including those to uphold the standard of education.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Dr. A. Majeed Khan called for building up a new movement in the educational arena for making the education "realistic and work oriented" freeing it from the clutches of "formalities and structural defects". He said unless we can make our people hard working devoted and professionally educated the country will face occasional push back in its march along the path of progress and prosperity.

He urged the teachers to rededicate themselves in the noble pursuit of spreading knowledge in the people to raise an educated society for the advancement of the country.