

National Education Week opens

President calls for action against immoral teachers

Staff Correspondent

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Tuesday said that moral degradation had reached its peak in country's educational institutions and called for stern punishment against morally corrupt teachers.

"Such moral erosion cannot be stopped by mere sermon or advice-the only remedy is stern punishment" he told a national education conference, referring to some recent cases of misdeeds by college and university teachers. The President quoted newspapers' items as reference.

The conference, organised by the Ministry of Education at the Osmani Memorial auditorium, was held in observance of National Education Week 1998. The President declared open the week after his speech.

Among the incidents he mentioned were a clash among teachers of a renowned government college over the sharing of "illegal toll" collected from the students on account of different fee and removal of a university teacher from his job by the authority on charge of giving additional marks in exchange of bribes.

The President was also critical of primary and high school teachers for their frequent absence from the schools.

He said that standard of the education had fallen at all levels. The main reason, he said, is that the academic activities are not maintained.

He said, there are primary schools in each village but teachers of these schools remain

absent for most of the period in a month. "If present, they remain for few a times. The teachers come to their institutions only during preparation of their monthly salary bills", he added.

He suggested for forming local committee for each primary school with responsibility of managing the schools. "This committee will apprise the respective district and thana education officers about the situation of the school. The teachers' salary bills will be passed with the approval of the committee", he said.

President Shahabuddin said: "sometimes it is seen that teachers although remain present in schools do not teach their students properly. They (teachers) advise the students to study at home or give them home tasks"; he said, the President added as a result, the students are compelled to appoint house tutors but the poor ones cannot afford it. So, most of the students have tendency to adopt unfair means in examinations.

He said the tendency to adopt unfair means had been spread in all spheres of education and students are also demanding for copying in the examinations as

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President

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their rights. Such trend is a pre-symptom for destroying a nation or a civilisation" he said and urged all to stop the tendency through taking appropriate steps.

Turning to terrorism on the campus, he said there is no congenial atmosphere in educational institutions. "Toll collection, realisation of ransom, capture of halls or hostels and so on have become normal phenomena in educational arena", he added.

He stressed the need for turning country's huge population into human resources by adopting science and technology-based education for the flourishing of democracy and socio-economic development of the country.

The President said unprecedented developments are taking place in the sector of science and technology across the country. "To go forward as a member of the global family, a time befitting education system must be introduced in the country", he added. He emphasised the need for improving the standard of education of the country in consistent with the science and technology-based modern world.

Education Minister A.S.H.K. Sadique, Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed and Additional Secretary Sirajuddin Ahmed also addressed the function.