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Mass literacy a must: Ershad

Staff Correspondent

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad gave a call to the teachers, educational administrators and all other concerned people to review the problems prevailing in the present education system and put forward their recommendations for improvement.

He said, reforms in our examination system had become imperative because of adopting unfair means in the examination centres were widespread. He warned the concerned people saying, "if we cannot stop this we are bound to face a bleak future".

He was inaugurating the Education Week at the Shilpakala Academy on Monday morning. Organised by the Ministry of Education, Mr. Hedayet Ahmed, Education Secretary and Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Education Minister delivered the introductory speech and the welcome speech respectively.

The inaugural ceremony of the national Education Week was attended by the Vice-President, Speaker, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet, Opposition leader in the

Parliament, MPs, diplomats and other high officials.

Highlighting the fundamental provisions of the constitutional commitment to mass literacy and universalisation of education, the President said through the observance of the Education Week we need to evaluate how far we had succeeded in fulfilling this commitment.

Mentioning the placement of honour by playing positive role in the international affair, the President said the nation had faced one of the worst floods of this century and withstood the ravages of the cyclonic storm with considerable courage and fortitude. "We have to uphold this spirit in all spheres of life. If we can develop ourselves into an educated nation" he said, "we shall attain our glory".

The President pointed out that a new awareness had been generated in all walks of our national life. For the fulfilment national development, a well developed education system is needed, he said.

He said significant decisions had

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been taken in order to attain this broad objective which include, subsidised pay allowances for the teachers and other employees of non-Government /educational institutions, reformations of examination system by introducing objective questions at the S.S.C. level, introduction of approved text-books for English medium schools, establishment of inter-education board coordination council etc.

The President noted that the present Government had enhanced the fund allocation for education sector. Citing examples of the previous years, he said the annual revenue and development expenditure on education had gone up by 400 per cent in the current session than that of the year 1982-83.

To achieve this goal of education for all by 2000, we have drawn up a programme for universalisation of primary education, the President said and added, a mass literacy programme was being implemented to eradicate illiteracy. Science education project had been taken up with a view to making secondary and higher education more realistic. He mentioned that the Government had taken 51 development and reformation projects in the field of education and the Government had allocated 1170 crore taka under the third five-year plan to implement these projects.

Noting the allocation in the education sector by the present Government, the President said the Government had carried out a historic responsibility by making the highest allocation in the current Budget in this sector. The teachers had now been enjoying increased facilities and new horizon of possibilities had also been opened up before the students, he added. He urged all to keep the campus free from terrorism. Unless a congenial academic atmosphere was restored the nation would plunge into darkness, he added.