

Campus must be congenial, peaceful: Ershad

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Sunday called for making the best use of the peace and stability that had been prevailing in the country to initiate greater development efforts to improve the condition of the commonman, reports BSS.

Addressing the fourth grand national conference of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka, the President commended the primary teachers for holding the March 3 parliamentary polls successfully.

The President said by conducting the polls they had upheld the cause of democracy, constitution and parliament and freed the country from terrorism and bombs. Peace and stability had been restored as a result of the successful holding of the elections. He said the people had proved through the elections that they did not want terrorism and they are in favour of democracy, constitution, peace, stability and development. He said the people had expressed

solidarity with the programmes of the present government through their verdict in the last polls.

The President said the people had totally rejected those who had brought terrorism and bombs in politics. The people had realised the fact that this kind of politics could never deliver any good to them, he said.

He described the teachers as the voice of conscience and said they had been given the responsibility of spreading the light of education in the nook and corner of the country. He expressed the confidence that the teachers would continue to discharge their duties in this regard.

President Ershad said for the first time in the history of this country his government had established the teachers in a respectful position in the society. In this context, he said, unhindered peace and discipline were essential pre-requisite for achievement.

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ving the objective of educating the nation.

CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE

President Ershad referred to the programme of literacy for all by the year 2000 undertaken by his government and said with a view to reaching the goal we must restore congenial academic atmosphere in educational institutions.

He said if we want to make the literacy programme successful, we must stop terrorism, bombings, copying, attacking teachers and movement for postponement of examinations in educational institutions. Besides he said, party politics from educational institutions should be stopped once for all. He said, he was not against student politics, but he was against party politics by students.

President Ershad said the students should involve themselves in such politics which would enlighten them about the happenings in the country and the world so that they could prepare themselves to take up the future leadership. He said keeping this in view he had dissolved the student front of the Jatiya Party and expressed the hope that others would follow this example. He also hoped that those who still maintain student front of their political parties should come forward to keep the students out of politics.

The President referred to the national education policy and said he was not in favour of imposing it, rather he would seek opinions of the eminent educationists and others through discussions and seminars before its implementation.

He said some political leaders after failing to make any headway in their movement against the government went to Washington and pleaded to the American government not to provide assistance to Bangladesh. They even pleaded to them to interfere into the affairs of Bangladesh, he said and posed a question saying was it patriotism or treason to plead to a foreign government to interfere into the affairs of an independent and sovereign country.

President Ershad said those who had been rejected by the

must be peaceful

people were now trying to malign our image in the eyes of foreign government and people. "Now you tell whether these elements are to be put under trial for their act of treachery and downgrading our image as an independent and sovereign nation or not" he asked the spontaneous gathering of primary teachers.

AID CONSORTIUM

The President said these elements even went to Paris and brought out a procession of 12 or 13 persons prior to the Aid Consortium meeting there to halt

foreign assistance to Bangladesh. But, he said none listened to their pleading and the Aid Consortium had pledged much more aid than previous years.

He said announcement of bigger amount of aid for Bangladesh was the manifestation of the confidence of donor countries to the ability of the present government. They had been feeling more confident on Bangladesh government since it had established democracy in the country, he pointed out.

He assured the primary teachers that their genuine problems would be solved after discussions with their leaders. He said he had always made all-out efforts to improve the condition of the teachers, and would continue to do so in the coming days.

GRANT

He announced a grant of Taka ten lakh towards Primary Teachers Benevolent Fund. Earlier, the President also granted Taka 20 lakh for the Fund.

President Ershad recalled his childhood primary school teacher — Mofiz Master — who with utmost care taught him the alphabets and other lessons for which he would always remain indebted to him. By serving the teachers, he was expressing his gratefulness to this great teacher, he said.

The conference was also addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Political Adviser to the President Kazi Zafar Ahmed, President of the Primary Teachers Association Abul Kalam Azad and General Secretary of the Association Kazi Abul Kasem Fazlul Haq. The function was attended by Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, Ministers and hundreds of thousands of primary teachers from all over the country.