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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, unhampered peace and discipline were essential pre-requisite for achieving

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Campus

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viving 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 implemen-

tation.

He said some political leaders

after failing to make any head-

way in their movement against

the government went to Wa-

shington and pleaded to the

American government not to

provide assistance to Bangla-

desh. 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 govern-

ment to interfere into the

affairs of an independent and

sovereign country.

President Ershad said those

who had been rejected by the

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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 less

sons for which he would always remain indebted to him.

By serving the teachers he

was expressing his greatness

to this great teacher he said.

The conference was also ad-

dressed by Deputy Prime

Minister and Political Adviser

to the President Kazi Zafar

Ahmed, President of the Pri-

mary Teachers Association

Abul Kalam Azad, General

Secretary of the Association

Kazi Abul Kasem Fazlul Huq.

The function was attended by

Prime Minister Moudud Ali

Ahmed, Ministers and hundreds

of thousands of primary tea-

chers from all over the coun-

try.