

Ershad's call to politicians

Keep campus free from politics

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in Dhaka on Saturday inaugurated the Education Week calling upon all including the politicians to help maintain congenial academic atmosphere in all educational institutions, reports BSS.

The President regretted that political parties had been utilising the students for fulfilling their ambitions and made a fervent appeal to leave the students alone to prepare themselves as worthy citizens of the country.

He said if politicking was allowed to continue in educational institutions, it would not only ruin the students alone but also the future of the nation. All of us should make efforts to keep the campus free of political activities in the greater national interest, he said.

President Ershad referred with heartfelt sorrow the death of some young persons in Chittagong during the last few days and said in their deaths none other than the parents and the nation had suffered.

The inaugural session of the Education Week was also addressed by Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Education Secretary Hedayet Ahmed and Additional Education Secretary Nooruddin Al-Masud.

The function was attended, among others, by Vice President A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, ministers, diplomats, eminent educationists and high civil and military officials.

The President said there was no alternative to education for building the society and the nation. He said the country's Constitution had provided for introducing a people-oriented and universal education system.

He said a large segment of our population was still illiterate and we must take steps to reach the light of education to them. We must make them into a skill manpower so that they could play a fruitful role in the socio-economic development of the country, he said.

Stressing the need for improving the standard of higher education, the President said it was an essential pre-requisite for the development of talents. The present Government was determined to introduce a development oriented education system suiting the requirements of the present time, he said.

In this context, he pointed out that in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution, the process of making the primary education universal had started and said at the same time the Government had been thinking of making primary education compulsory.

President Ershad said Taka 11 hundred and 70 crore had been allocated in the current five-year plan period for the development of education. He said primary education had been given priority with 46 per cent of the allocation being earmarked for this.