



President Hussain Muhammad Ershad addressing the fourth grand National Teachers Conference organised by Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association at Bijoy Sarani on Wednesday.

Ershad announces 10 pc DA for teachers

Call to eradicate curse of illiteracy

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Wednesday announced ten per cent dearness allowance for the non-government school, college and madrasa teachers with effect from July 1, next, reports BSS.

A national teachers benevolent fund would also be created from July 1 and the class three and class four employees of the non-government schools, colleges and madrasas would be brought under the National Pay-Scale, he told the fourth National Teachers Grand Conference at Bijoy Sarani in Dhaka organised by the Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity Federation.

President Ershad, who is also the Chairman of the Shikkhak Samity Federation, said the teachers of government colleges, schools and madrasas would also get the same financial benefit as the government

employees as announced earlier. Deputy Prime Minister and Political Adviser to the President, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, and Federation leaders — Sheikh Amanullah, Principal A K M Shahidullah, Moulana Mohammadullah, Prof. Asadul Huq, Prof. A K M Ali Reza and Kazi Faruq Ahmed — also spoke at the function.

Earlier, on arrival at the venue President Ershad was given a warm ovation by thousands of teachers who came from different parts of 64 districts of the country.

He was profusely garlanded by Federation leaders amid loud cheers. The President released pigeons and hoisted the National Flag.

President Ershad declared that the government grants given

as salary support and allowances to the non-government teachers would be provided regularly on monthly basis from July 1, next.

He said steps would be taken to create posts and regularise the services of the teachers in the newly nationalised colleges as per recommendations made by Anam Committee.

The President said he had accepted in principle the demands of the teachers regarding the effective services in nationalised educational institutions. He directed the Ministries of Education, Finance, and Establishment to sort out this problem of the teachers immediately.

President Ershad directed the Education Ministry to solve the remaining problems.

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Ershad's call to teachers

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of the teachers, particularly those of the government educational institutions, with regard to their promotion service rule and anomalies in the pay-scales forthwith.

President Ershad called upon the teachers to contribute effectively to the noble task of eradicating the curse of illiteracy and checking population explosion in the country.

He said 'there are three lakh teachers in the country'. If each of you teach ten unlettered annually during your leisure then three crore of them could be educated and the nation would get rid of the curse of illiteracy.

President Ershad urged the teachers to inspire and encourage the people to check effectively the present population growth rate. He said the national economy would be strengthened if we could check the population explosion.

He reminded the teachers about the problems of unemployed educated youths and said this problem had been contributing to the increase in the drug abuse. President Ershad asked the teachers to help these youths to create self-employment.

President Ershad called upon the teachers to play their due role in freeing the educational arena from terrorism which he said, had threatened the existence of the nation.

He expressed the hope that the efforts of the teachers would help restore the sanctity in the educational arena where pen would never turn into a dagger.

President Ershad paid tributes to the teachers and said a nation could never prosper if the teachers were neglected or not honoured duly.

The President read out a self

composed poem dedicated to the teachers which drew thunderous applause from the vast audience. He said the teachers were the candles who enlightened the society.

President Ershad said he had been putting in efforts to change the old image of the teachers. He said the people today held the teachers in high esteem and reposed in them the responsibility of building up the future generations.

President Ershad was happy to note that the Sikkhak Samity Federation had organised itself well from the grass root levels.

Deputy Prime Minister Prof. M. A. Matin, Ministers, diplomats and high officials were present at the function.