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Revolutionary measures to solve teachers' problems

Build up students as a disciplined force: Ershad

By A Staff Reporter

President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad called upon the teachers to train the students as a disciplined force free from outside influence.

Speaking as the chief guest at the first national teachers' convention at "Masjid-e-Gausul Azam and Bangladesh Madrasa Teachers' Association complex" at Mahakhali on Saturday afternoon President Ershad said that his Government was determined to uphold the dignity of the teachers as the makers of future generations.

The President announced a 13-point measures and benefits to meet with their long standing hopes and to solve their problems.

Organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Teachers' Associations and presided over by its Secretary General Alhaj Maulana Abdul Mannan, the function was

also addressed, among others, by Maulana Khandker Nasiruddin, General Secretary, Madrasa Teachers' Association, Mr Abdul Khaleque, General Secretary, Non-government Secondary School Teachers' Association, Mir Abdul Baten, President, Government Secondary School Teachers' Association, Principal A. K.M. Shahidullah, President, Non-government College Teachers' Association and Mr Ali Reza, General Secretary, Government College Teachers' Association.

President Ershad, who is also the Chairman of the Federation, said that the Government was fully aware of the problems of

the teachers and necessary steps had already been taken to improve their lot despite resource constraints.

Amid thunderous applause from the audience comprising about one lakh teachers coming from every nook and corner of the country, General Ershad announced Tk 100 as house rent for all non-government teachers.

The President said that from now on trained graduate teachers would receive the status of second class gazetted officers in respect of travel and daily allowance, 50 per cent posts of Government school teachers in the pay scale of Tk 625-1315

would be filled by promotions from among meritorious teachers. Demonstrators in Government colleges in the pay scale of 625-1315 having requisite efficiency would get the chance to be promoted to the posts of lecturers.

President Ershad said that 30 per cent posts of associate professors, associate professors and professors in Government colleges would be filled by promotions. Under this arrangement, 2000 teachers would get promotion very soon.

He said that the teachers of non-government institutions would receive an amount equivalent to one yearly increment as grant from January this year. Experience of teachers in non-government institutions would be calculated from the date of recognition of the institutions.

President Ershad exhorted the teachers to take care of the students and save them from ruination. Forces misguiding tender-aged students for their self-interests must be squarely resisted, he said.

President Ershad said that the students, who were future of the nation must be brought up as a disciplined force so that they could take the onerous responsibility in guiding the nation.

He said that the students were to be built as men of character and this onerous task lay on the teachers.

He said that the present Government had been making all out efforts to build a new Bangladesh and sought cooperation from all in attaining this goal. He cautioned the teachers about forces of indiscipline. "Will you be with me?" he asked the audience and hundreds of teachers said 'yes' by raising both of their hands.

President Ershad granted Tk 10 lakhs to the Federation. He

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President and CMLA Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad was profusely garlanded on his arrival at the venue of the national teachers convention at Mahakhali on Saturday. —Times

Disciplined force

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also said that all the schools and colleges of the country would remain closed today (Sunday) and tomorrow (Monday)

since the teachers had come to attend the convention from all over the country.

Maulana Abdul Mannan said that the Federation was above politics. He also pleaded for keeping educational institutions free from politics.

Maulana Mannan said those who were trying to mislead the students and create disturbances in the country should be sent outside the country like 'Nusrat Bhutto'. The teachers were ready to sacrifice blood for the greater interest of the nation' he added.

The chief of Madrasa Teachers' Association also said that the teachers were behind Ershad like solid rock. He lauded the role of the journalists in shaping the destiny of the nation.

Some of the journalists he said called him 'dala' (agent). 'I was a dala of Field Marshal Ayub Khan President Ziaur Rahman and now doing dala of President Ershad' he declared.

He urged the Government to bring down the prices of essentials. He said that the people were not with forces of anarchy and indiscipline. They do not participate in hartals. They keep their shops closed and vehicles off the road out of fear.

The function was attended by cabinet ministers foreign diplomats and high civil officials.

Earlier President Ershad was given a rousy reception when he arrived at the massive pandal erected on the occasion. Dressed in pajama, shawl and nagrai President Ershad was profusely garlanded and flower petals were showered on him.