

Benefits for teachers will increase in future

Education policy after proper scrutiny: Ershad

By A Staff Reporter

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad said on Wednesday that his Government aimed at building up of an educated young society rich in technical knowledge, as the human resources are the greatest wealth for a developing country.

Inaugurating the grand national conference of Bangladesh Teachers' Association at the Alia Madrasa premises the President said that the future of the youth could be made meaningful only

by strengthening the foundation of education, imparting appropriate skills and above all creating more job opportunity for them. The President called upon the people of all walks of life to co-operate with the government in making the programme a success.

President Ershad said that in the coming days education of the country would harmonise knowledge, culture and tradition, technology and religion with principal objective of making it meaningful and realistic.

The inaugural session of the grand conference, one of the largest assembly of teachers, was attended among others by ministers, diplomats and about 15 thousand delegates of the association. It was addressed among others, by Education Minister Dr. A. Majid Khan, Mr. Abdul Mannan and Mr. Abdul Khaleque, President and General Secretary of the association.

The President said that to receive education was the fundamental right of an individual and it was also our national obligation to preserve this right which had also been recognised

by the country's suspended constitution. Unfortunately, we have failed in discharging our responsibility and duty during long years after independence. In the past, many commitments were made but little was done. But "we, the present government, can speak firmly prior to completion of two years in government that we have taken specific and effective measures in the education sector," he added.

EDUCATION POLICY

President Ershad said that with a view to reorganising and developing education system, opinions had already been polled from the people on the proposed education policy. A neutral committee comprising teachers representing all level were now analysing information collected so far. The President said that the findings of the committee would be placed at the national conference on education to be held in March and after due scrutiny and consideration the draft education policy would be announced.

President Ershad said that the government has attached special emphasis on such objec-

tives of education as to improve the standard of moral life, acquire knowledge, flourishing of technically rich knowledge and above all preservation and enrichment of our own culture and tradition.

SCIENTIFIC LAB

He referred to the completion of survey conducted on management and facilities available with the secondary schools in the country and said the government has taken steps to set up scientific laboratory and provide furnitures to 2,000 private secondary schools on the basis of this survey. Scientific instruments have been distributed to 1,330 private schools including 130 madrasas last year and 3,600 more schools will receive this assistance during the current year.

FUNDAMENTAL EDN

President Ershad said in order to strengthen the fundamental foundation of education the government has laid special emphasis on the development of primary education so that education can be made universal cheaper and purposerul. With a view to introducing universal education in the country we arranged measures to build more schools and supply text books school dress and educational inputs he said.

Gen Ershad said besides we have taken in hand two welfare-oriented schemes to make education appropriate for national requirements. These are community learning centres and the

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Convention on primary education January 29

A two-day national convention to discuss policy and plans for universalization of primary education will begin in Dhaka on January 29 reports BSS.

President and CMLA Lt Gen H M Ershad will inaugurate the conference on January 29 at 10.30 a.m. at local Shishu Academy, auditorium.

Dr A Majeed Khan Minister for Education will attend the function as special guest About 500 delegates from all over the country will attend the conference.

Education policy

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community schools.

He said the primary schools under community learning centre will serve as focal point for social development where the teachers students and guardians will be able to be educated and undertake coordinated pragmatic development programme. On the other hand he said the secondary schools under the community school programme, will serve as focal point for spreading modern and technical knowledge with the provision of imparting courses in five branches of technical skills. As a result the illiterate youths and drop-outs from schools will be able to acquire technical skill for suitable employment.

Gen. Ershad observed that the members of the teaching community are the driving force behind every effort for the advancement of education but regretted that compared to other professions the teachers fell victims to financial constraints more in the post liberation period.

He said that present government is fully aware of the situation facing the education sector and condition of the teachers. He categorically told the conference that the government would establish the teachers in a respectful position in the society.

TEACHER'S BENEFIT

President Ershad said in order to ameliorate the sufferings of the teachers in private schools the government has already been giving them 50 per cent of their basic salary and 40 per cent of the total pay as Dearness Allowance. The government has decided to 60 Taka as medical allowance to them from this month and an additional increment with effect from July this year.

Gen. Ershad said that the government thinks that the facilities that are being accorded to the private school teachers are not adequate and added they we have done what ever was possible within the limited resources of the country. He assured the teachers that economic benefits for the teachers would surely increase in the future. Our desire is not to cut the expenditure in this respect rather to meet the requirements.

The President said that when the government is trying to restore the status and prestige of the teachers it is hoped that they as makers of worthy citizens would work for restoring confidence in the students for a better life.

Turning to the nationalisation of educational institutions President Ershad said such measures are not aimed at nationalising the employees of the institution. The basic objective behind the programme was to attain overall improvement of education through allocation of necessary funds and increasing facilities.

In view of this policy, he told the conference, the government would try to meet the financial

constraints of the private educational institutions in the future. Efforts would continue to improve the professional skill of the teachers along with the steps to enhance their salaries and allowances.

Gen. Ershad expressed the hope that the teachers community would not hesitate to make sacrifices to perform their cardinal responsibility in the greater interest of the nation.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. A. Majid Khan said that the fundamental objective of education would be to make education meaningful. He said the government has given top priority to development of education and to establish the dignity of the teachers.

President of the association Mr. Abdul Mannan took a vow on behalf of all teachers to dedicate themselves to the task of spreading education in the life of future citizens. He also mentioned problems faced by the community of teachers.

Mr. Abdul Khaleque General Secretary of the association stressed the need for a uniform education system for the country. He pointed out various disparities prevailing in the system now.



President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, speaking at the grand national conference of Bangladesh Teachers' Association at Alia Madrasa premises on Wednesday morning. —Times