

Ershad cautions students against evil designs

# Shun party politics, join nation building activities

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Tuesday called upon the students to play a constructive role which can be a matter of pride for the nation and productive element for building a new Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was addressing the students of Shahceed Suhrawardy College in an over-flowing auditorium in Dhaka.

The President said the students are national wealth and future hope. Their contribution to national development can best be made through their pursuit of knowledge and useful activities, he added.

He reminded them of the hard realities that are lying ahead and said "this is the best period of your life to prepare yourselves to shoulder the future responsibilities with courage and conviction.

President Ershad told the jubilant students that they must uphold four principles which are to create and maintain a congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions, to promote healthy students-teachers relationship to shun party politics and to participate in nation building activities. "If you adhere to these principles as your guiding force, nobody will be able to misuse your exuberance," he added.

The President cautioned the students against any evil design to mislead them and use them for selfish political end. "Keep away from political temptations and be aware of ominous signs in political arena. Your unity

and understanding should be preserved for your welfare and country's development", he added.

Amidst thunderous applause and slogans of whole hearted support for the present government's development programmes President Ershad said, "The students are very close to my heart. I am prepared to undertake any pain to see them grow as worthy citizens".

### MEASURES

The students burst into cheers when the President was listing the measures undertaken by his Government to promote welfare of the students and teachers. In this context he mentioned that he has been personally visiting educational institutions of the country from one corner to the other to see for himself their condition and solve their problems.

President Ershad said that two years ago the budgetary allocations for education sector was

only 294 crore taka and out of that forty crore taka remained unutilised, whereas the allocations in the current fiscal year has been set at four hundred crore taka, he added.

The President said in addition to this allocation, an amount of Taka 10.32 crore has been given from the President's personal fund during his visit to different educational institutions for improving academic facilities and promoting further development.

He said in the last few months eight colleges including the Eden Girls College in Dhaka have been upgraded into university colleges and nineteen colleges have been nationalised. Steps have been taken to construct six more residential halls for university students and seventeen more hostels for college students. Subsidy has also been given for improved diets in the university halls and separate buses have

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been introduced to facilitate the movements of the students, he said.

Turning to the teachers' welfare, President Ershad said his Government believes in dignity of the members of the teaching profession and has provided various facilities to them so that they can live an honourable life in the society.

He said the Government now contributes 50 per cent of the basic salary of the non-government teachers, thirty per cent dearness allowance, Taka 100 as house rent allowance and Taka 60 as medical allowance per month. Besides, he said there is provision for an interim increment. The functioning of the four education boards have been coordinated, he added.

The President said in recognition of the dignity of their profession, the teachers have been given the status of second class gazetted officers in matter of travelling allowance and they are no more required to go to government officials for any character certificates.

He said that the nation can march towards progress and prosperity only when it shows respect to the members of the teaching profession.