

# Students urged to help build nation

The 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 Shaheed 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.

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.

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 (See Page 12 col 3)

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tion 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 19 colleges have been nationalised. Steps have been taken to construct six more residential halls for university students and 17 more hostels for college students. Subsidy has also been given for improved diets in the university halls and separate buses have 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 30 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.

President Ershad paid tributes to the sincere and dedicated services rendered by the Principal of the college for its improvement. I have a gift for you in recognition of your valuable services for education, he said as he garlanded the Principal at the beginning of his speech which was frequently punctuated by cheers and welcome slogans.

The function was also addressed by Principal of the college Mr. Mohammad Hossain, Chairman of the college governing body Mr. Khan-e-Alam Khan member of the Dhaka University Senate and Syndicate Mr. Anwar Hossain Khan Chowdhury convener of Natun Bangla Chhatra Samai Rafiqul Hoq Hafiz and a student leader of the college Shafiqur Rahman Shafiq.

He (President) was presented with a number of gifts for his love and dedication to the cause of students, teachers and education as a whole.

The President was also profusely garlanded by the students.