

Ershad announces benefits to teachers

Warning against bid to disrupt peace

By A Staff Correspondent

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad on Saturday warned the nation of the fresh move being initiated by political parties to create law and order situation in the country on the plea of a political movement.

Addressing the first national convention of the Federation of Teachers Associations (FTA) at Mahakhali the President said that the nation could no more afford any chaos and anarchy. He urged all to resist effort from any quarter to foment indiscipline in the society. He exhorted the people to work unitedly and with dedication for building a new Bangladesh.

Emphasising the importance of the teaching community the President said that the teachers were the builders of the future of the country. He advised the teachers to play their due role in the society by educating the nation.

The President advised all not to pollute the academic atmosphere. He said that the students were the future of the nation and none should try to deviate them from their pursuit of knowledge. He asked the teachers to keep their students disciplined and dedicated to their studies.

Reiterating his Government's policy to establish Islamic ideals in all spheres of national life, President Ershad announced that religious education would be made compulsory from the current academic year. He expressed his regret over the official decision to make religious education optional in the current curricula saying, "I did not know how it happened". When he gave this announcement the Madrasa teachers cheered and raised slogans, "We want Islamic revolution".

Referring to different demands of the teachers President Ershad, who is also the Chairman of the Federation of Teachers Associations said "I pledge to establish you in the society with full honour and status". He announced amidst cheers that the teachers would now get Taka 100 per month as house rent and he ordered to implement time-scale promotion for teachers from the current month.

President Ershad said that he was happy to be the Chairman of the FTA. "I am your Chairman, not by force", he told the thousands of teachers who converged at the first national convention of FTA.

About the demands of the teachers he said that from now on trained graduate teachers would enjoy Second Class gazetted officers status in their travel and daily allowances. He announced that teachers in non-Government educational institutions would get the amount equivalent to one yearly increment as grant from the current month. The Head Mohaddes of Qamel Madrasa would be given the status of assistant Professor of Government college, he added.

President Ershad said that he had granted Taka ten lakh for supplying food to the delegates in the teachers convention.

The FTA convention was addressed by Moulana M.A. Mannan, Secretary-General of

FTA and a former State Minister for Education in former President Sattar's cabinet Mr. A.K.M. Shahidullah President of Non-Government College Teachers Association Mr. A.K.M. Ali Reza General Secretary of Government College Teachers Association Mir Abdul Baten President of Teachers Association (Government Secondary Schools) Mr. Abdul Khaleque General Secretary of Teachers Association (non-Government Secondary Schools) and Khondoker Nasiruddin, General Secretary of Madrasa Teachers Association.

Home Minister Major-General Mannan Siddiqui, Establishment Minister Major-General Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury, Manpower Minister Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) Aminul Islam, heads of diplomatic mission high ranking military and civil officials were present at the FTA convention. Education Secretary Kazi Jalal Ahmed was also present at the convention but the Education Minister Dr. Abdul Majed Khan was conspicuously absent.

In his speech the FTA Secretary-General Moulana M.A. Mannan said that the grand convention of the teachers demonstrated that the teachers (Continued on Page 12 col. 3)

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were united when "the country and the political parties were divided". He warned the politicians not to try to influence their politics in educational institutions. He said that the students who are the future of the nation need no treatment but he advised the Government to send those who try to pollute the academic atmosphere for treatment abroad like Nusrat Bhutto of Pakistan.

Moulana Mannan said that he had collaborated with President Ayub Khan President Zia and now for the third time "I am collaborating with General Ershad". He said that the teachers had taken a historic decision to make General Ershad as the Chairman of the FTA. He assured President Ershad of all out support of the teachers community.

President Ershad was elected Chairman of the FTA by voice vote in the convention and Moulana Mannan was again elected Secretary General of the federation. Earlier, President Ershad was presented a silver casket containing the address of welcome.

BSS adds 50 per cent of appointments of teachers in the scale of 625-1315 in Government schools will be filled up through promotions of the meritorious teachers.

Steps will be taken for appointment of eligible demonstrators in the pay scale of 625-1315 as Lecturer in the Government colleges.

Eighty per cent of the post of Professor Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Government colleges will be filled up through promotions. As a result of this step 2,000 teachers will be promoted soon.

The experience of the teachers in the non-Government educational institutions will be counted from the date the institution concerned received recognition from proper authorities.

The ratio of Lecturers and Assistant Professors have been made 6:3 from 5:2. As a result most of the lecturers will be able to enjoy 1400-2225 pay scale after completing eight years of service.

Eligible teachers of non-Government educational institutions will be appointed on deputation as per 20 per cent rule.

If any person with Second Class Honours and Masters degree was a school teacher and later appointed as college teachers his service length will be determined by adding his experience in the school with that of the college.

Break of service up to six months will be treated as continuity of service in case of the teachers of non-Government educational institutions when they get appointment from one institution to the other.

The matter of exemption of Income-Tax of the non-Government teachers has been sent to the national board of Revenue for consideration.

Government pay scale will be introduced for Class Three and Four employees of non-Government educational institutions. Similar appropriate pay scale will be introduced for the "Kabyathitha" teachers.

If any educational institution is functioning on the vested and abandoned lands and if that land is not required for any important programme of the Government then that land may be allotted in favour of the concerned institution as per law if it is found logical.

The Iftedaven class of teachers attached with Dhakil madrasas will be given necessary grants as per Government pay scale.

Directives have already been given to appoint subject-wise lecturers in the madrasas.

The allowance for the Karris of Forkania madrasas will be restored with immediate effect.