



President H. M. Ershad received a warm ovation from thousands of cheering Jatiya Chhatra Samaj members at a rally in Dhaka on Wednesday. —Times

Student community to champion national cause: Ershad Eradicate illiteracy

President H.M. Ershad on Wednesday expressed the hope that the student community who have a glorious heritage of championing the causes of the country will surely live up to the expectations of the nation for building a happy and prosperous motherland, reports BSS.

He said people of the country have high hopes that the student community would build themselves as worthy citizens to take up the responsibility of future leadership in all sectors of national life.

The President was speaking at the grand conference of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj at the Institution of Engineers premises in Dhaka. The conference was also addressed by Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary General of Jatiya Party Dr. M.A. Matin, Deputy Premier and presidium member of Jatiya Party Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Deputy Minister for Education Ziauddin Ahmed and convener of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj Rafiqul Huq Hafiz.

President Ershad said edu-

cation is the principal vehicle for taking the country on the road to progress and prosperity. For that matter, the Government has attached top-most priority to the education sector which is manifested from the allocation of increased fund to it.

He said students who in the past had always responded to the call of the country would come forward to bolster the Government effort for expansion of education. He called upon the members of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj to work as

torch bearers for eradicating the darkness of illiteracy from the society.

The President in this context spoke about the attempts made by some elements to disturb peaceful academic atmosphere and said such machination of creating indiscipline in educational premises amounts to shattering the national backbone and throwing the people into the darkness of poverty and non-availability of skilled manpower.

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Eradicate illiteracy

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President Ershad said, Campus cannot be a warfield, pen a gun, pencil a dagger and so terrorism the syllabus. The sanctity of campus has to be maintained for creating atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of knowledge, he added.

He called upon the members of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj to contribute their efforts, in cooperation with the majority of students who aspire for congenial educational atmosphere, to free the educational premises from being vitiated.

The President reminded the members of Chhatra Samaj of their four principles of keeping congenial academic atmosphere, building of good teacher-student relationship, keeping the students out of politics and associate the students with the national development process and said Chhatra Samaj members should by their work and deeds pursue these great ideals.

Recalling the birth of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj on March 28 of 1983 for advancing the four principles, the President said it had today spread out to the nook and corner of the country carrying the message of upholding the cause of proper educational atmosphere.

He said students of the country who had shed blood for language and laid down their lives for liberation had now been entrusted with the responsibility to see that the country progressed on the path to prosperity without being lost in the whirlpool of negative politics.

The President said for ensuring uninterrupted development it was the primary responsibility of the students to engage in the pursuit of knowledge to build themselves up as an educated work force to complement progress. The objective of independence was to build a prosperous society and that have to be attained, he asserted.

President Ershad said the students could take up any profession including politics after completing their academic life. But any loss in the academic career for indulging in activities which spoil their career could not be made up, he said.

In this respect he listed various measures taken by his government to promote education which included instituting awards for brilliant results in public examinations and financial support for development of educational institutions from President's fund in addition to normal development schedule and said his Government would

continue to do everything to advance the cause of education.

The President's speech at the meeting was punctuated with welcome slogans and cheers.

MATIN

Speaking on the occasion, Dr M A Matin lauded the role of the student community in different phases of national struggle for independence and said with the winning of liberation, the greatest task before the nation now is to build the country. The students have a role to play in this changed situation, he said.

Dr Matin referred to the past attempts to tarnish the image of the students which included killing of students at Dhaka University and highjacking of ballot boxes and said nefarious designs to disturb campus sanctity have to be curbed to create a congenial atmosphere as the majority of the students want to pursue education in a peaceful atmosphere.

ZAFAR

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the student community of the country being the conscious section of the society will continue to champion the cause of education defeating attempts by any quarters to undermine it.

ZIAUDIN

Ziauddin Ahmed said huge gathering of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj manifests student community's aspirations for making educational institutions free from the twist of arms and indiscipline.

Chhatra Samaj students call on President

Student representatives of different educational institutions from all over the country belonging to Jatiya Chhatra Samaj also called on President Ershad at CMLA's Secretariat on Wednesday evening, reports BSS.

They assured the President that they will do everything possible for maintaining congenial academic atmosphere in their respective institutions and pursue their studies with dedication.

President Ershad thanked the students for organising a colourful student gathering in Dhaka. Deputy Minister for Education Ziauddin Ahmed was also present.