



Resist chaos on campus: Ershad

GAZIPUR, Mar. 15:— President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said here today that Islam which is the religion of peace, welfare and emancipation of mankind had also put utmost importance on education, reports BSS.

The President was inaugurating the three-day seminar on the role of Islamic University in the system of education in Bangladesh at the Islamic University campus premises.

Jointly sponsored by Islamic University and Asia Foundation, the inaugural session of the seminar was also addressed by Religious Affairs Minister Maulana Abdul Mannan and the Vice Chancellor of the University Dr. A.N.M. Mumtazuddin Chowdhury.

President Ershad said the first residential university of the world was the Masjid-i-Nababi which had produced the best commanders, the best head of states, the best judges, the best diplomats and the best religionists of the history.

He said our Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) used to introduce himself as a teacher and after establishing first Islamic state in Madina and subsequent expansion of its rule in other parts of the world, the Muslim rulers had patronised knowledge and science.

The President said the Nizamia and Mustaria University in Baghdad, Al-Azhar University in Cairo and Cordova University in Spain are the glorious contributions of the Muslims. When Europe was in darkness of ignorance, the Islamic World was the centre of learning and civilisation, he said adding, European renaissance is the contribution of the Muslims.

He said Bangladesh also became one of the main centre of Islamic education in the region. Islamic civilisation and culture became very rich centering the historic Sonargaon, when Muslim rulers built thousands of maqtabs and mad-rashas for spreading the light of education and knowledge in this land, he said.

The President regretted that contrary to the past glorious tradition of the country today the educational arena has been turned into war field, the bombs have taken place of books, terrorism has become the syllabus and pens have become dag-gers. As a result the whole generation is being ruined, many valuable lives are being lost and parents are

getting frustrated, he pointed out.

He made a clarion call to all irrespective of party affiliation and opinion to unitedly voice their indignation and build up strong resistance against chaotic conditions in educational arena to protect the future generations from total ruination.

President Ershad said the present Government has given priority to education sector and said if we fail to provide proper education to our students, the future of the nation is bleak. He urged all to keep the students out of politics and make them understand that they should devote their time and energy in building themselves as worthy citizens.

Referring to an interview of a teacher published in a local weekly, the President asked whether the teachers themselves have discharged their responsibilities to their students properly educating them.

He pointed out that there is no militancy among the students of all educational institutions other than one or two campuses where a handful of students who are acting as stooges of a political party are indulging in violence. He said the

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general students, who want to pursue their studies, do not subscribe to violence, rather they are against it and want to build their career in a peaceful academic atmosphere.

President Ershad urged the teachers to discharge their responsibilities of creating a congenial atmosphere on the campus thus devote themselves for building a worthy future generation which would be able to fulfil the hope pinned on them by the nation.

The President said Bangladesh being the second biggest Muslim country of the world, our efforts are always directed towards the establishment of Islamic values and ideals in the society. "We believe that the Islamic values of life can only emancipate the people from moral and social degeneration", he said adding, "we have been working relentlessly in that direction during the last five years."

In this context, he said foundation stone of the Islamic University was laid during this period and it was inaugurated during the same period, Fridays were declared weekly holiday, National Idgah has been constructed in the capital, Baitul Mukarram Mosque was beautified, set up Zakat Fund and established family courts.

President Ershad said programme for providing training to two lakh Imams has been taken up in hand and Taka eight crore has been earmarked for this sector in the Third Five-Year Plan.

He said libraries will be set up with the mosques, while Taka forty crore will be spent for the Islamic organisation. A separate ministry on religious affairs was also set up, he said.

He hoped that Islamic University would be able to make significant contribution in restructuring the education system which will be able to fulfil our socio-economic, technological and moral requirements.

The inaugural session of the seminar was attended by Vice President A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Deputy Minister Moudud Ahmed, ministers, members of parliament, diplomats and high officials.

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