

Dhaka wants permanent solution of floods : Ershad

President Ershad yesterday reiterated that Bangladesh wanted permanent solution to the problem of recurring floods, reports BSS.

Inaugurating Hermann Gmeiner College at Mirpur yesterday afternoon the President said to achieve this objective Bangladesh had sought both regional and international co-operation.

With this end in view, he had visited India and would visit Nepal today, he said. We would also visit Bhutan and China and hoped that we would be able to achieve a permanent solution to the problem, he added.

He said, we do not want any more floods like this year's one which rendered many children orphans and damaged many schools. He said, we want to rear these orphans with motherly care and rebuild

the schools for which cooperation from all quarters were needed.

The President thanked the SOS International for coming forward with their cooperation in this regard.

President Ershad inaugurated Hermann Gmeiner College at Mirpur here with a call for cooperation from all quarters to help build the future generations in a proper atmosphere.

The college established by SOS International on a land donated by the Government at Mirpur has been named after the founder of the organisation late Hermann Gmeiner. Earlier, SOS International established a school at the same site for the education of the children of SOS village in Dhaka.

President Ershad recalled the contributions of Hermann Gmeiner in creating an atmosphere for the orphans where they grow up in motherly care. This was his dream and he materialised it through SOS villages and schools built in different parts of the world, he said.

Referring to the Government efforts made for the welfare of the children the President said, 70 Shishu Sadans had been set up for the unbringing of the orphans. He said, the Government wanted to create an atmosphere in these sadans in line with the SOS villages so that the children there could grow under motherly care and family environment. He said the intention of the Government was to extend the child welfare services to the villages and urged the SOS International to spread in the rural areas of Bangladesh. He

assured them of government cooperation in this purpose.

Recalling the contributions of SOS International in Bangladesh he said 47 girls brought up by them were given in marriage, 32 boys became self reliant, four brilliant students were studying in the universities and one in Bangladesh Military Academy.

He also thanked Mr Helmut Kutin, President of SOS International for his personal efforts in spreading the SOS service in Bangladesh.

The function was also addressed by Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Social Welfare Minister Rezwanul Haq Chowdhury, SOS President Helmut Kutin, Social Welfare Secretary Azizul Haq and SOS project director Sheikh Niamat Ali.

Mr Kutin handed over a cheque for Taka three lakh to the President, donated by the SOS Children Village, West Germany, for the President's Relief Fund. The project director handed over Taka 8,000 saved by the children from their tiffin.

The President then formally inaugurated the college by unveiling the plaque.

Earlier, the President visited the class rooms of the school and talked to the children. He also visited the science fair organised by the students.

Four children brought from Urirchar and being brought up at the SOS village were introduced to the President.

These orphans were brought from Urirchar at the initiative of President Ershad after the cyclone and tidal upsurge there in 1986.

The function was attended by Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Deputy Prime Minister Prof M A Matin, ministers, chief of naval staff, diplomats and high officials.

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After inaugurating the Hermann Gmeiner College founded by SOS International at Mirpur in the city President Ershad visited its school section yesterday.