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Expand facilities for women education : Ershad

Students asked to uphold our culture, heritage

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Wednesday emphasised the need for expanding the facilities of women education in the country, reports BSS.

Speaking at the foundation laying ceremony of the new building of Khilgaon Girls' High School in Dhaka, the President said women who constitute half the country's population must get proper education so that they could be meaningfully involved in the mainstream of our development efforts.

He advised the students to keep themselves away from alien culture instead they should uphold our own culture and heritage. "In our daughters, we want true reflection of our mothers and their values", he added.

The Administrator of Dhaka Municipal Corporation, Maj Gen Mahmudul Hassan and the headmaster of the school, Mr M.A.

Yakub Ali also spoke on the occasion.

President Ershad urged the students to devote themselves to the pursuit of knowledge so that they could build themselves as worthy citizens. He said the students must not allow themselves to be swayed away by social unrest and erosion of moral values. "You should not indulge in any activities which may tarnish your image in the society", he added.

He said student life was solely meant for acquiring knowledge and not for politicking. He asked them to fulfil the dreams of the parents as well as the country in equipping themselves to shoulder the onerous responsibility that lies ahead of them.

Underlining the importance of religious education, the President said the students should follow the teachings and injunc-

tions of religion in their day to day life. In this context, he advised the students to maintain decorum and decency in their manners and behavioural patterns with their elders.

He said the government had given priority to education in its development strategy. He said the government was aware of the necessity of more educational institutions to cater to the needs of the growing

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number of students. Keeping this in view, he said he had granted an additional amount of Taka 47 crore for the development of different educational institutions last year.

President Ershad called for making concerted efforts to build a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh where our own traditions and values would be sustained.

Earlier, President Ershad formally laid the foundation stone of the land donated by the Dhaka Municipal Corporation. The President during an earlier visit to the area announced a grant of Taka ten lakh for the construction of the school building.

On arrival at the site of the school, he was given a standing ovation by jubilant students. They showered flower petals and profusely garlanded him.

The function was rounded off with a variety show presented by the students of the school.

Later, the President visited the site of the underconstruction Khilgaon Market of Dhaka Municipal Corporation.