

Students urged to play due role in nation building

By A Staff Correspondent

President Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad while inaugurating "Students Brigade" of National Students Council at the Shilpakala Academy on Monday said that he would not use the students for his political gains.

Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu Students Affairs Adviser to the Chancellor who is also a Janadai leader presided over the function.

The members of the Students Brigade will undertake a 10-day tour of 100 upazilas from today (Tuesday). Each team consists of 10 members. Their trip is aimed at imparting education to adults creating awareness about family planning and motivating the masses in nation building activities.

Each member of the Brigade would receive a lump sum amount of Taka 200 as transport cost and a daily allowance of Tk. 35 for the trip. The money would be provided out of Food for Works Programme Family Planning and the Ministry of Education funds.

The function started with the playing of a recorded song composed by President Ershad himself. The first line of the song is "Naton Bangladesh Garba Mora Naton Kare Shapath Ni. Jam" which was followed by

Tilwat-e-Quran. President Ershad terming the members of the Brigade as soldiers for building a 'new Bangladesh' said that with the formation of the Brigade, a new chapter has been

Violent start

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A fist fight between Hasan Suhrawardy and Ekramul, two members of the recently-formed Students Brigade of National Students Council created pandemonium at the Shilpakala Academy prior to the formal inauguration of the Brigade by President Ershad on Monday morning. The exchange of blows continued between them for quite some time over the possession of a seat.

Hasan Suhrawardy is a Second Year student of the Department of Political Science of the Dhaka University while Ekramul is a Third Year student of Public Administration Department of the same university.

The quarrel was, however, stopped at the interference of other members of the Brigade and some student leaders.

Mr. Ziauddin Bablu, Students Affairs Adviser to the President immediately took up the microphone to address the students with an appeal for patience and tolerance. He also urged them to forget petty differences

added to the history of the country. The students would build the country anew through this programme, he hoped.

President Ershad called upon the students to be imbued with the spirit of building the nation through proper knowledge of the needs and problems of rural Bangladesh. The students are our future leaders who must know the country properly and such programme would give them an opportunity to know the society better, he said.

Paying tributes to those who shed their blood for the establishment of the mother tongue in its proper place and also for the liberation of the country President Ershad said that if required—students would again give their blood for the establishment of 'Naton Bangla'.

Criticising those organisations which try to misguide the student community the President advised the students not to be used by such quarters. Today a new awareness has been created among the students and they would build their future by their own efforts, he said.

All my programmes are aimed at the development of the people of rural Bangladesh and with the help of the students such programmes can be better implemented, he said. The problems of the student community are my own problems and none

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President Ershad addressing the inaugural function of the 'Students Brigade' as chief guest on Monday.

Students' role

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knows their problems better than me,' he said.

The students in the past were loveable in the society. They must make themselves loveable to the people anew by their deeds and manners, he hoped.

A total of 1.90 lakh students sat for the Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSC) this year and 40,000 of them would not get the chance of higher education for lack of accommodation in the educational institutions, he regretted. He said that he was quite aware of the problems of the student community and would do his best to solve them. He also announced at the function in response to demand from the members of the Brigade that each member of the brigade would get an umbrella. He also requested the Education Minister to release more funds in addition to Taka ten lakh al-

located for the expansion of the programme.

Education Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhury said that the message of the recorded song played at the opening of the function would be spread by the members of the people. He urged the students to contribute their mite to improve the lot of common people.

Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu said that had there been no blessings of President Ershad it would not have been possible to hold the conference of the Brigade. The President has also instructed the banks to come forward with a helping hand for financing the part-time employment programmes of the students, he said. More students would be involved in the Students Brigade in phases, he said.

DCMLA, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, members of the Cabinet and high civil and Military officials were among others who attended the function.

The members of the Brigade would undertake their trips to the respective upazilas from today (Tuesday). They had a day-long briefing sessions on Monday