

Ershad's call to remove illiteracy

# Teachers urged to help build nation

By A Staff Correspondent

President H.M. Ershad on Thursday called upon the teachers to discharge their responsibilities as true architects for building the nation. Terming the profession of teaching as a responsibility and not a mere profession, President Ershad said that the future of the nation was dependent on them as builders of the next generation.

The President was addressing the second national grand conference of the Federation of Bangladesh Teachers Associations at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar as chief guest. The conference was addressed by Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Minister for Education, Maulana M.A. Mannan, Secretary General of the Federation of Bangladesh Teachers Association, Principal A K M Shahidullah, President, Bangladesh College Teachers

Association A K M Ali Reza, General Secretary Bangladesh Government College Teachers Association, Sheikh Amanullah, President Bangladesh Teachers Association, Maulana Khondakar Nasiruddin, Secretary General, Madrasha Teachers Association, and Shahidur Rahman General Secretary, Government Teachers Association.

President Ershad who is also the Chairman of the Federation of the Bangladesh Teachers Associations said that there was no alternative to education for the progress and development of a nation. A well-disciplined and conscious educated community was needed for the overall development of the country. He told the teachers to spread the light of education in every nook and corner of the country.

He called upon the teachers to work with dedication for building a new Bangladesh free from deprivation and corruption.

The President regretted that despite his best efforts for the wellbeing of the country, he was being abused by the opposition leaders and parties. Newspaper pages are seen full of abuses aimed at me every day; he deplored. He said he was ready to accept any punishment if he had committed any wrong.

President Ershad called for maintaining the Islamic tradition in the country where 9 crore Muslims live. He said time had come to drive away politics from the campus.

President Ershad was reelected Chairman of the Federation of Bangladesh Teachers Associations for a period of five years.

Maulana M A Mannan, Principal Shahidullah, A K M Ali Reza, Sheikh Amanullah, Maulana Khondakar Nasiruddin and Mr Shahidur Rahman were also reelected Secretary and Joint Secretary Generals respectively of the federation for a further term of five years.

Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad stressed the need for educating the students on the Islamic way of life which he said is complete code of life. He simultaneously called for teaching the students on the life, philosophy and ideals of our great Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (S.M.)

He regretted that when the rate of literacy in many of the developing countries was 80 to 90 per cent, the rate of literacy in Bangladesh was only 20 per cent. It was needless to say that the pace of national development could not go on in full swing unless this situation was reversed he added.

Turing to the teacher-student relation, President Ershad said that an abnormal situation was prevailing in the campus. Expressing his fear he said that the students were going apart from the college and schools day by day. Stressing the need for bringing the students back to the campus, the President said that time had come to keep the campus free of the educational institutions from politics. He regretted that the innocent students were being used by the politicians as their weapons. He warned that once a career of a student is spoiled, it could not be corrected.

## Teachers urged

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The President expressed his shock at the erosion of the moral values in the society. He told the teachers to work for keeping up the values high and help stop its erosion.

Appreciating the role of the teachers, Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad said that his government would give the teachers their due honour in the society. He said that the government has increased the budget allocation in the education sector. He said that he would personally look into the problems of the teachers. The President asked the Ministry of Education to set up a committee for reviewing the demands and problems of the teachers and submit its recommendations to him within next two months for consideration.