

New policy for educational uplift underway - Ershad

BANCHARAMPUR (Brahmanbaria), Dec. 10: President H. M. Ershad said here today that efforts should be geared up to generate more resources through increased production in fields and factories for undertaking development programmes for the benefit of the people, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting the President said peace and discipline are the main pre-requisites for uninterrupted development and the people of the country have already given their verdict against the politics of destruction in the last presidential and parliamentary elections.

He referred to the various reforms effected by his govern-

ment during the last four and a half years in different sectors and said these development gains would have to be consolidated and more development programmes are being materialised to improve the condition of people.

President Ershad said since communication and supply of electricity are essential ingredients for development his government has given high priority to build a good communication network and ensure steady supply of electricity in all parts of the country for achieving speedy development, specially in agriculture and industrial sectors.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Shaadur Rahman

MP Mr. A. T. M. Wali Ashraf Editor of London based Weekly Janamat and Mr. A. W. M. Abdul Huq Chairman of Bancharampur Upazilla Parishad.

The Minister without portfolio and Secretary General of Jatiya Party Maj. Gen. (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan and local Area Commander Maj. Gen. Abdus Salam were present.

FARM CREDITS

Referring to the measures taken by his government to mitigate the sufferings of peasants, President Ershad said he had exempted interests on farm credits upto a particular amount if the actual credit amount is repaid by February 28 next year.

He said a small farmer, who

had taken an agriculture loan upto Taka 5,000 or little more and now the amount has increased substantially as a result of the addition of interest to the actual amount, would be benefitted out of this step. He said if farmers repay the loan by February it would not only be beneficial for them but also the money could be utilised for development purposes. In this context, he said the government would have to pay a subsidy of Taka 600 crore for exempting interest on agriculture credits.

STUDENT POLITICS

Turning to the student politics President Ershad said his government is determined to

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Educational uplift

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maintain congenial academic atmosphere in all educational institutions. He urged the political parties to refrain from using the students as their pawns in politics and said they should not make the educational institutions as the spring board of their political activities.

He referred to the unhealthy situation prevailing in some educational institutions of the country and said being the conscious section of the society it is our foremost duty to see that the sanctity of the educational institutions is maintained in the greater national interest.

The President said it would be undesirable that the political parties maintain their student fronts in educational institutions. Educational institutions should be the seat of learning only and we want our children to prepare themselves as worthy citizens. He said adding: they can take up political career after completing their studies.

He said the people of the country are in favour of eradicating the menace of student politics and called upon students to devote their time and energy to the pursuit of knowledge and live upto the expectations of their guardians and the nation. He said a new po-

licy is being formulated under which coordinated efforts would be taken to develop the educational institutions of the country in a balanced manner.

POPULATION BOOM

President Ershad cautioned the people about the danger of population boom in the country and said if this trend of population growth continued unabated, our survival would be at stake. He urged the educated section of the society to come forward to motivate the people specially those living in rural areas, for adopting family planning programmes.

UZ SYSTEM

He referred to the introduction of upazilla system and said as result of this administration has come closer to people. Now the development activities are centred in rural areas, he pointed out.

The President urged people to work unitedly to achieve the cherished objective of improving the condition of the commonman. He announced that the Dhaka-Bancharampur road and a Shaheed Muktijoddha Monument will be constructed here.

Earlier on arrival here, the President was given a standing ovation by the people of all walks of life including women, children students and freedom fighters.