

# Nation can't allow undoing of 4-yr gains: Ershad

## Resist campus violence

KASHBA, (Brahmanbaria). Feb. 8: President H. M. Ershad today called upon the people from all walks of life to build up a strong resistance against those trying to resort to violence and indiscipline in the campus to achieve their selfish ends, reports BSS.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Kashba T. Ali College ground, the President said that the nation cannot afford to allow handful of elements to destroy the gains it has achieved during the last four years for the sake of their personal benefits.

He regretted that some political elements have been using the innocent students as pawns in their political games and urged them to be pushed to the path of violence and indiscipline to disturb the present stable situation achieved through relentless efforts during the last few years.

The responsive meeting, which raised welcome slogans, burst into thunderous applause during the speech of

the President was also addressed by the Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Prof. A. K. M. Haroon-ur-Rashid, the local Upazila Parishad Chairman, Mr. Shahidul Hossain and a local leader, Mr. Humayun Kabir.

President Ershad said the peace loving people of the country are always against any kind of violence whether in the campus or outside. They want peace and discipline in the society which are the two main prerequisites for uninterrupted development, he pointed out.

Referring to the beginning of violence in the campus in 1973, the President said since then the people have continuously expressed their sentiments against such violence

and indiscipline which have nothing to do with "our national hopes and aspirations."

The President reiterated his Government's determination to establish democracy and an elected representative government in the country to carry forward the development activities initiated by the present Government.

He said with that end in view his Government announced election dates several times in the past and accepted the demands of opposition parties. But even then they did not participate in the elections, he said.

President Ershad said on the one hand, some political parties have been resorting to facism to eliminate their political opponents and on the other they are shedding crocodila

tears for democracy. The people wonder whether these political parties want democracy or they want facism, he said.

The President urged the opposition political parties to participate in the general elections if they really believed in democracy. Without an election, how democracy can be established, he asked.

Referring to the contributions made by the people of Kashba in achieving the independence of the country, he said "we must fulfil the dreams of the Shuhada who have laid down their lives for the cause of their motherland by building a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh."

President Ershad said his Government had introduced upazila system to bring administration to the door-steps of the rural people and effected many reforms and development programmes during the last four years. These have already helped in improving the lot of the people, specially

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those living in the villages, he said.

### GRANTS

President H M Ershad announced that the bridge over the river Bijna will be constructed and the local boys high school and the girls high school will be taken over by the Government. He also announced Taka 15 lakh as grant

for the development of other educational institutions under Kashba upazilla and Taka one lakh for the development of the graveyard of the Shaheed freedom fighters at Kashba.

### KAZI ZAFAR

Addressing the meeting the Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said it was due to the negative attitude of some opposition political parties that the process of transition to democracy is being hampered.

On arrival at Kashba, President H M Ershad was given a rousing reception by the people from all walks of life including women, students, workers peasants and freedom fighters. They lined up on both sides of the road to the meeting venue and greeted the President with welcome slogans and clappings. Several ceremonial arches were also erected to welcome the President.

The ZMLA, Zone 'D', Maj Gen Abdus Salam, accompanied the President.