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Education for all by year 2000

Ershad distributes Chancellor's Award to students

President H.M. Ershad on Thursday morning distributed the Chancellor's Award to the brilliant students who secured the first position in the First Class in Degree Honours examinations of the universities saying that the principal means of breaking the circle of poverty are talent, hard work and initiative, reports BSS.

The President said education is the imperative element for progress and it can help solve 80 per cent of the problems by itself.

The award giving ceremony held at the Darbar Hall of Bangabhaban was attended among others by Begum Raushan Ershad Vice President A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Speaker, Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Members of Parlia-

ment and high civil and military officers.

Students securing top positions in different examinations from Higher Secondary level to Degree Honours level were also present at the function.

President Ershad spoke of attaching the highest priority to education by his Government and said the highest allocation has been given to education sector in the Third Five-Year Plan. He said our objective is to ensure education for all by the year 2000 and we are making tireless efforts in that direction.

He said there is no alternative to merit. "We have no dearth of resources. We have a fertile land and huge manpower resources," he said, adding "Under this condition, there is no reason why we would be poor or under-developed."

LOST GLORY

Recalling the golden old days

when fame of Bangladesh had spread across the globe for education, knowledge, trade and commerce, the President expressed his firm belief that "if we take renewed initiative to love our motherland and people, then we are sure to restore the lost glory".

In this respect, President Ershad said we must not forget that self-reliance is indispensable for upholding the dignity of independence. Similarly, he said proper use of our own resources and confidence in our own ability & capacity are the pre-requisites for attaining self-reliance, he said.

He said, "Our children are at par with others in respect of merit and talent and they had made their mark several times in international fields."

"I am confident, if given scope and facilities, they can

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make possible what is impossible, he said adding, "It should be our responsibility to provide those scopes and facilities to our children."

FUTURE INVESTMENTS

The President said he has been speaking repeatedly that students are the future investments of the nation and that they should not be used as pawns of politics, he said using students in politics will do harm to the country and the people.

He said we must remember that the country is above individual or party interests. We cannot do politics with the future of our children as it amounts to crime beyond excuse.

WELFARE-ORIENTED AIM

President Ershad advised the students to enlarge their aspirations ensuring that it should not be limited to individuality, rather be welfare-oriented for the people and the country "You must keep in mind the contributions of the society towards your successes" he said adding, "talent has no separate entity. Rather your talent is the result of united labour and endeavour of the whole nation."

The President told the students to preserve and flourish national heritage and create national pride by following the path of national personalities who have contributed towards the progress of the society.

You will be the forebearer of our national heritage, he said.

President Ershad advised the students to respect their teachers saying that the teachers are next to parents to them.

Your education will be incomplete if you do not respect your teachers, he observed.

JCP LAUDED

President Ershad lauded the Jatiya Chhatra Parishad for organising the award-giving ceremony and said the Parishad has been created to give a forum to the students to discuss and find out solutions to the problems facing them and associate themselves with the people through participation in work camps.

He said the Parishad activities will be expanded by associating the elected representatives of the students from various colleges and universities to serve the causes of education.

The function was also addressed by Adviser to the Chancellor of the Universities and coordinator of Jatiya Chhatra Parishad, Rafiqul Haq Hafiz.

President Ershad distributed awards among 195 students who secured first position in First Class in Degree Honours examinations of the universities in Thursday function.

Awards to students securing first 20 positions in Secondary and Higher Secondary certificate examinations will be given by Education Minister at a function today (Friday) at Osmany Memorial Hall. A total of 362 students have been honoured for their brilliant results this year.

The Chancellor Award was instituted in 1984 by Jatiya Chhatra Parishad.

Later, President Ershad joined the students at tea at the lush green lawn of Bangabhaban and mixed freely with them who were beaming with happiness and pride in recognition of their achievements.