

Call to improve standard of Education

085

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Friday made a fervent call to all to make efforts to maintain the sanctity of educational institutions and improve the overall standard of education in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the tri-ennial national conference of Bangladesh Teachers Association (BTA) at the Shilpakala Academy Auditorium in Dhaka, the President said, "let us take a pledge to remove all sorts of unholy practices from the campus for the welfare of the country and the nation".

The conference was addressed, among others, by Deputy Prime Minister and Political Adviser to the President Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Education Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, President of BTA Sheikh Amanullah, and General Secretary of BTA Muhammad Azizul Huq Shah.

Besides a large number of teachers' representatives from all over the country, the inaugural session of the conference was attended by ministers and government officials.

Quoting Bertrand Russell President Ershad said "the teachers are the conscience of civilisation, path-finder of the nation and architects of building real men".

President Ershad emphasised the need for making the primary education universal and compulsory and said this was the only way through which the rural people could be made literate. He said our doctors, engineers and people of other professions had earned reputation abroad while the people living in the rural areas had been suffering from the curse of illiteracy.

Bid to raise literacy

He said efforts should be made in phases to increase the literacy rate to 80 per cent by the year 2000. At the same time we should make efforts to improve the standard of education as well as provide meaningful education to our future generations.

Referring to the situation prevailing in different universities of the country President Ershad posed a question as to why the guardians would send their wards to these universities for higher education where there was no security of life and no guarantee of completing their education in due time as a result of session jam.

He regretted that during the period of seven and a half years between 1980 and 1987 the Dhaka University remained closed for four and a half years while the Engineering University remained closed for 472 days during the period from 1981 to 1985. The Rajshahi University remained closed for 242 days during the last year, he said adding the government had to spend Taka 13,632 per university student annually.

He said the money that was being spent for the university students at the cost of the interest of the general public is not properly utilised. Besides, the government is incurring a loss of Taka 133 crore 62 lakh annually as a result of session jams in the universities, he said.