

DU remained closed for 4.5 yrs during 80-87: Ershad

Campus sanctity for quality education must

By A Staff Reporter

President H.M. Ershad on Friday urged all concerned, particularly teachers, to make a strong pledge to restore sanctity on the educational campus and ensure an atmosphere congenial to quality education.

The President was speaking as chief guest at the triennial national representative conference of Bangladesh Teachers Association (BTA) at the Shilpakala auditorium.

"We want a production-oriented education which is suited to the need of time. At the same time we want to go back to the good old days when teachers earned both respect and fear from the students", the President said.

Turning to the situation in universities, President Ershad said, "When we were students of colleges we used to dream about Dhaka University. It was a great privilege to be a student of Dhaka University at that time. But if I were a college student these days, I would not dare think about Dhaka University

where violence and session jam are daily events".

He said that Dhaka University had remained closed for four and a half years between 1980 and 1987, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for 472 days during the period between 1980-81 and 1985-86 and Rajshahi University classes were suspended for 242 days last year.

President Ershad said that the nation had to suffer a loss of Taka 133.62 crore due to session jam in universities.

The President said that the Government spent Taka 1,136 per month for a university student and the amount came through the sacrifice of 5.67 crore poor people of the country.

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

On the Dhaka University Ordinance of 1973, the President said that under the ordinance, things had turned out to be a "one-way traffic". "The Government will provide fund to universities, but it will not be allowed to see whether the money is being

spent properly". He said that the University Grants Commission (UGC) which was empowered to look into the accounts of universities under the ordinance, also did not get details of the accounts of universities.

Universities, President Ershad said, "are considered to be the powerhouse of a nation" where talents would assemble from all over the country. But what is happening in the university, teachers are appointed through vote, not on the basis of their qualification and ability, the President said.

"People avoid university area. Even women whom we respect as our mothers and sisters are insulted there. We just cannot send our children there to get an education that teaches them to insult women", the President said.

The President called upon the teachers to help restore a congenial atmosphere and ensure quality education in educational institutions.

The conference of BTA was
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