

## University colleges at dists to end jam : Ershad

# English as a compulsory second language stressed

RANGPUR, Aug. 10: President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today urged the students to devote their energy in quest of knowledge to build themselves as worthy citizens for making meaningful contributions in the development efforts of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge gathering of students at Carmichael University College premises here on the occasion of the foundation-laying ceremony of the College auditorium, the President said after completing education there could be no greater reward than to get opportunity to work for the nation.

The meeting was also addressed by Jute Minister A.K.M. Ma-yeedul Islam, and principal of

the college Dr Abdul Jabbar Mia.

On arrival at the College premises, President Ershad was given a rousing reception by the students. They raised slogans welcoming President Ershad who was a student of the college from 1946 to 1950.

Recalling his period of study in the College, the President said the dream of a student at that time was to build himself as worthy citizen and to contribute to the development of the country.

President Ershad referred to the steps taken by the government to ensure use of Bangla at all spheres and said time had come when all should think of studying English as a com-

pulsory subject in educational institutions since it is an international language. This, he said would help the students get better higher education, he pointed out.

The President said his government had been thinking of recasting the present education system to suit the requirements of the country and in keeping with that line colleges at district level would be made university colleges offering honours courses.

He said an affiliating university would conduct the examinations of these colleges while the existing residential universities should function only as residential universities. This way, he said, we could improve the sit-

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## English compulsory

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tion in the educational arena and remove the session jam thus freeing the students of miseries and hardships they had to suffer at present.

He said the government did not want to force these decisions but would seek public opinion by holding seminars and discussions before their implementations.

The President said educational arena had been vitiated by the political activities by a section of students. In this context, he referred to the dissolution of the student front of Jatiya Party and said he had hoped that other political parties would follow this example. But, he regretted that none had so far done it and hence the campuses were still the hot beds of politics in the country.

He said the students had been gradually realising the bad impact of politics in the campus and expressed the hope that the political parties which had been maintaining their student fronts would leave the students alone to pursue their studies.

President Ershad said Carmichael College had been developed to a great extent by the present government and it would be developed further.

He then formally laid the foundation stone of the College auditorium.

### BAR ASSOC. BHABAN

The President also attended a reception given by Rangpur High Court Division of the Supreme Court Bar Association and inaugurated the Rangpur Bar Association Bhaban.

Speaking on these occasions, the President said as a result of the decentralisation of judiciary, six permanent benches of the High Court Division of Supreme Court had been set up in different parts of the country for quick dispensation of justice.

Referring to the activities by a vested interest group in the capital against the setting up of the High Court benches, he said the people had realised their evil design and rejected them since they had been acting against the interest of the people.

President Ershad said there might be political differences but on national issues, all of us could come to consensus. He urged all not to be guided by personal interest only but to take pragmatic attitude to the steps which caters to the cause of national interest.

The President of Rangpur High Court Division Bar Association

Advocate Azizul Huq and the President of Rangpur Bar Association Advocate Nurul Huq welcomed the eighth amendment to the constitution which enabled the setting up of the permanent bench of High Court division of the Supreme Court outside Dhaka. They urged those who had been opposing the setting up High Court benches outside Dhaka to refrain from such acts in the greater national interest.

### MUKTIJODDAH MARKET

The President laid the foundation stone of the market complex of the Rangpur District Muktiyoddha Sangsad. A muna-jat was offered on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ershad said the nation would never forget the contributions of the Freedom Fighters and said because of their sacrifice, the nation had achieved independence.

In this context, he referred to the steps taken by his government for establishing the Freedom Fighters in their rightful place in the society. In the past, they were being oppressed but the present government had given them their due honour, he said.

Describing the Freedom Fighters as the greatest sons of all times, the President, his government had established the spirit of the independence war and taken steps to rehabilitate the disabled freedom fighters and shaheed families. The President then distributed gold medals among meritorious students of Rangpur district and those made significant contributions in different fields awarded by Rangpur Kallayan Trust at a ceremony held at Rangpur Town Hall. The trust also handed over to the President "the Ershad gold cup" for starting a football tournament in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, President Ershad said he was happy that the Kallayan Trust had introduced the gold medal award and said this would help in the development of the latent talents in different fields. He said if the talents were encouraged properly, the nation would be benefited.