

Healthy academic climate must be ensured

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Thursday said education is vital for a developing country like Bangladesh to build up educated and technical work force to advance uplift, reports BSS.

That is why, as a nation we have no alternative, but to ensure healthy academic atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of knowledge.

The President called upon the teachers, whom he described as the architect of future workforce, to spread the knowledge and help restore congenial academic climate in the educational arena.

President Ershad was speaking to a large number of teachers and members of the Federation of Teachers' Association who came to the President's Secretariat to express their solidarity with and gratitude to him as their organisation's Chairman after performing their duties during the last parliamentary polls.

The function was also addressed by Religious Affairs Minister and Secretary General of the Federation Moulana M. A. Mannan, Principal of Tejgaon College, Tofael Ahmed, Princi-

pal of T. & T. College Muntir Ahmed, Principal of Habibullah Bahar College Abdur Razzak, office-bearer of Non-government School Teachers' Association Dr. Syed Ahmed and Joint Secretary of Madrasa Teachers' Association Moulana Ruhul Amin.

Political Adviser to the President Kazi Zafar Ahmed was present.

President Ershad expressed his optimism about early return of proper academic atmosphere saying that a realisation in this regard has come in the guardian, students and teachers and with the settlement of politics in favour of development and construction, things have been normalising in the educational arena.

He said despite all differences, we have to place national causes above all. At the same time, he said, we must in a spirit of democratic accommodation, tolerance, understanding and respect to one another's view points

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should arrive at a consensus on major national issues instead of keeping a deadlock to give rise to uneasy socio-economic atmosphere.

In this context, he regretted the tendency of a section of leaders who by their utterances and interview to foreign media were belittling the national prestige and honour. He said national honour & prestige should not be equated with any factors facing the life. Such tendency shows the inferiority complex of a person and weakness of politics, he observed.

The President mentioned the

various measures he had taken for improving the economic condition of the teachers and enhance their social status and said from the highest office of the country he had given the teachers their rightful honour and prestige and accepted their Association's chairmanship.

He assured all possible help from his office to do more for the teachers in the coming days within the limitation of national resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Religious Affairs Minister Moulana Mannan said a section of opposition political parties, who are day-dreaming of power, could

not even guess that elections could be held by their abstaining from it. Otherwise, they would have been in the front line of the election race.

The teachers speaking at the meeting categorically said they have opted for consolidating the leadership of President Ershad deciding on the choice between progress and retardation. They said they are always with the President in advancing the cause of country.