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Ershad's call to restore academic atmosphere

JOYPURHAT, Aug 29 (BSS): President Ershad today said a tremendous wave of reawakening was noticeable among the people all over the country following the huge development activities initiated by his government.

"We should sustain this wave and utilise it as the driving force for continuity of the current development process,

the President said while addressing a mammoth public meeting at Joypurhat and a number of wayside meetings on his way from Bogra to Joypurhat.

President Ershad said his government was pledge-bound to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh and the uplift work that had taken place during the last seven years was a testimony to that.

Bangladeshis were now known as a nation of brave people and despite our resource constraints nobody belittled our position any more, he said.

After an overnight stopover at Bogra President Ershad proceeded towards Joypurhat this morning and traversed the 60

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problems of the district with the local political leaders and elite at the Circuit House.

He received donations for the Pathakali Trust from the members of Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Circuit House.

The President also received donations for the trust from the

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people from all walks of life at the public meeting at Joypurhat.

Yesterday, the President received donations for the trust from a cross-section of people at Pabna Circuit House and a donation of Taka one lakh given by the management of Alhaj Textile Mills at the public meeting held at Ishurdi.

President Ershad was given a rousing reception when he arrived at Joypurhat on the last leg of his two-day tour to the northern districts. People from all walks of life including women and children were overwhelmed with joy to find the President amongst them. The President's arrival was delayed by several hours due to the unscheduled meetings that he had to address.

A vast sea of people who stood on both sides of the road in heavy rains sang songs and danced to the beat of drums to receive the head of state.

Immediately after arrival, the President drove straight to Joypurhat stadium to address the public meeting.

President Ershad said now there were two distinctive trends in the country's politics—one based on positivism and the other on negative attitude. He described the latter as politics of tall talks.

He said people all over the country had given their verdict in favour of the politics of positivism, as pursued by Jatiya Party, for leading the nation toward attaining peace, progress, development and discipline.

"We would be able to attain all our desired goals with the peace and stability now prevailing in all spheres of life", the President said adding this had also been realised by the people of the country.

President Ershad said his government had adopted a number of definite policies and undertaken various reforms to attain the cherished goals. The nation is now marching forward and if the trend continues it would not be difficult to find a position of us among the developed nations.

He urged the people to strengthen his hands and take a vow that they would not tolerate indiscipline any more.

Referring to the current violence and indiscipline in some academic institutions the President said if this trend continued unabated the nation was bound to be doomed as education is the backbone of a nation.

President Ershad reiterated his call to opposition political parties to follow the path of Jatiya Party and help restore academic atmosphere in the educational institutions of the country.

The President mentioned the Jamua multi-purpose bridge project, taken up by his government, and said with the completion of the project economic activities in the northern districts would get the desired boost-up.

He said his government was pledge-bound to implement the project and assured that it would be done within the stipulated time. "It is only we who are capable of doing it," he added.

He assured the people that a cement factory would be set up in Joypurhat and the district headquarters would be linked with nationwide dialling system.

The President also assured that the Panchbibi road would be metalled and announced donations for the academic institutions of the district.

President Ershad expressed his gratefulness to the local people for the warmth and ovation shown to him and thanked them for patiently waiting for a long time to listen to him.

Addressing the meeting, LGRD and Cooperative Minister Naziur Rahman announced a donation of Taka 10 lakh for repair of Joypurhat Municipality office building.

The President addressed way-side public meetings in Mahasthangarh Degree College premises, Raushan Ershad Mohila College at Mokamtala under Shibganj upazilla and at Kalai upazilla headquarters. He also offered fatcha at the mazar of Shah Sultan Balkhi (RA) at Manasthangarh.