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# Ershad stresses developed education system

President H M Ershad yesterday inaugurated the Education Week saying that the fundamental provisions of the country's Constitution was commitment to mass literacy and universalisation of education, reports BSS.

He said there was no substitute for education in building a society and it was the key to the development of human resources. Education removes the curse of ignorance and illiteracy while it is looked upon as an indispensable part

of the development process, he said.

President Ershad said keeping this in view, education was given top priority all over the world. In Islam, he pointed out, education has been ordained farz or mandatory for both men and women.

The inaugural function held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was also addressed by Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Education Secretary Heda.

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# Education system

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Vice President Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Speaker of Jativa Sangsad Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, ministers, diplomats and high civil and military officials were among those who attended the function.

The President said as a result of its positive role in international affairs, Bangladesh had been able to gain a special place of honour in recent times. We have faced the devastation of one of the worst floods of this century and withstood the ravages of the cyclonic storm with considerable courage and fortitude, he said.

He said the nation had to uphold this spirit in all spheres of the national life and added: "If we can develop ourselves into an educated nation, only then, I think, we shall attain our goal."

Referring to the new awareness that had been generated in all walks of the national life President Ershad said as a result of untiring efforts of last seven years, "we have been able to instil a sense of self-confidence in the hearts of the people."

He said with a view to fulfilling the pledge made by his government for national development the country needed a well developed system of education. In this context, he said a few significant decisions had been taken in order to attain this broad objective, he said.

Elaborating the decisions, he said, these are: (a) Enhancement of the subsidised pay and allowances for teachers and other employees of non-govt. educational institutions and formulation of policies relating to these matters.

(b) Reformation of the examination system by introducing objective questions at the secondary school certificate level.

(c) Introduction of approved textbooks for English medium schools and thereby bringing about a modification in keeping with our national heritage, culture and religion.

(d) Improvement of the standard of education by framing rules and regulations for recognition and affiliation of educational institutions.

(e) Taking necessary alternative measures for development of education instead of nationalization of educational institutions.

(f) Establishment of an inter-education board co-ordination council.

(g) Adoption of definite measures for selection of examination centres and conduct of examinations.

(h) Prescribing more than one textbook at the secondary level.

(i) Making religious studies/education compulsory at the Secondary School Certificate Examination.

(j) Introduction of English as a compulsory subject from Class-I to Class-XII.

(k) Discouraging private coaching with a view to improving class room teaching.

Stressing on the need for utilising education for the welfare of society, the President said poverty and backwardness could be removed through a life-oriented education system. In this connection, he quoted an advice of Shaikh Saadi to his pupils saying: "If you fail to implement in your practical life what you have learnt, you are not truly educated. With this objective, he said the campus should be made free from terrorism which itself is destructive. To ensure a well-structured education system, independent nation, guardian

problems prevailing in our education system during the Education Week and make recommendations for improvement. Referring to a seminar on "Education environment and examination system" the President said reforms in our examination system, have become imperative because of widespread unfair means at the examination centres. "If we cannot stop this we are bound to face a bleak future", he said.

Later, the President inaugurated an "Educational exhibition", where 20 stalls by different educational organisations were opened.

The President hoped that the teachers, educational administrators and all other concerned people would review the