

Ershad opens 2 primary schools for poor children

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Tuesday inaugurated two primary schools for poor working children at Dholaikhal and Fatullah, reports BSS.

The school at Dholaikhal has been named Pathakali-1 Dholaikhal Shishu Kallyan Prathamik Biddalaya and the other at Fatullah as Pathakali-2 Fatullah Shishu Kallyan Prathamik Biddalaya.

Speaking on the occasion the President said the schools had been set up to provide educational facilities for the working children who were destined to do physical labour for their livelihood due to poverty of their parents.

He said the children who work in different factories in Dholaikhal area and work for breaking stones and bricks at Fatullah will study for one hour in these schools before they go to their respective working places.

President Ershad said these budding children were the assets of the nation and it was the responsibility of the society and the nation to help them bloom.

He said these children were like flower bud and requested cartoonist Ranabi to name them "pathakali" instead of "Tokai".

Pathakali-1 has been constructed at a cost of about Taka 12 lakh and Pathakali-2 at a cost of about Taka

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School

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14 lakh 50 thousand. Built by the Ministry of Education. Each of these schools has a capacity of 250 students.

President Ershad has directed the Adhikar Trust founded by Mr. Rezaur Rahman to take up the responsibility for opening bank accounts in the name of each student and look after their welfare.

He said after the success of Pathakali-1 and Pathakali-2 the government would set up more such schools in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

The President said every year out of one crore and 70 lakh primary students about 70 lakh become drop outs as they had to work in the fields and mills and factories to assist their parents.

Earlier, President Ershad formally inaugurated the schools by unveiling the palques amidst applause. He went round different class rooms and talked to the students enquiring their welfare.

On way back the President dropped at Pagla Bazar and talked to the children while they were breaking stones.

He then visited the municipal park at north Jatrabari which is being built on a filled land which was earlier a big ditch. The President expressed satisfaction at the progress of work of the park.

Col. (Retd) M.A. Malek, administrator, Dhaka Municipal Corporation was present during the visit.