

Raushan opens Pathakali-School-5

Education for all children stressed

CHITTAGONG, Dec. 21 (BSS): First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad said here today that the nation's independence would be meaningful only when we could made available the opportunity of education to each and every citizen of the country.

"It is our moral and national responsibility to keep open the door of learning for every children — poor or rich, she added.

The First Lady was speaking as the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of "Pathakali School-5" at East Madarbari in the city. The school is being set up on 1400 decimals of land donated by Chittagong Municipal Corporation (CMC) for street children.

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ziauddin Ahmed also addressed the func-

tion while CMC Mayor Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, MP presided.

Terming education as the yardstick of national development Begum Raushan Ershad said the country could never achieve real progress and prosperity unless the course of illiteracy could be totally removed from the national life.

In this connection, she recalled the target of the government to ensure "education for all" by the year 2000 and said only the government could not achieve it unless educated section of the society come forward with allout helping hands.

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She said among 3.5 crore children of the country more than two crore were oppressed and helpless. "The society has moral obligation to look after their welfare," she added.

She said the activities of the trust would be expanded upto upazila and union levels.

The First Lady stressed the need for a congenial atmosphere for persuit of education and knowledge in educational arenas.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud said the poor people had a right and share on the huge fortunes gathered by the rich people. He asked the richer section of the society to fulfil their moral obligation for the welfare of the have nots.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, who is also the Vice President of the Pathakali Turst, said it had been sufficiently proved that the existing formal education had failed to meet the needs of a nation which achieved its independence at the cost of the lives of thirty lakh martyrs.

Mr Ziauddin Ahmed said no government in the past had given any thought or taken any programme for the welfare of the street children. He said Ershad Government had not only organised these neglected children but also enunciated a policy to make them worthy citizens of the nation.