

Biswas opens B M Varsity College centenary celebration

## Help build happy nation removing illiteracy

BARISAL, Oct 25: President Abdur Rahman Biswas today called for united efforts of teachers, students and guardians to help remove the darkness of illiteracy through expanding education all over the country to build a happy and prosperous nation, reports BSS.

With this end in view, he said the present democratic government had initiated some revolutionary steps including the mass literacy programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and sought coopera-

tion of all in this regard.

The President was inaugurating a three-day centenary celebration of Brojomohan University College here with a large number of old and new students, local elite, political leaders and members of parliament attended the function.

With Principal of the college, Mohammad Hanif in the chair, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, State Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources

Mosharrat Hossain Shahjahan, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, Mujibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Selima Rahman MP, Rawshan Ara Hena MP, and VP of the college students union Imam Jahan Sikder.

Old students of the college B D Habibullah and Prof. Syed Anwarul Huq reminiscenced from their memoirs when they were the students of the B M College.

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## Help build happy nation

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The President said, democracy and independence are the first and foremost prerogatives to development and added, "We should now change our outlook to establish the society on a balanced system on the basis of science and technology."

Referring to the sacrifices made by the students during the struggles for democracy, the President said it must be consolidated by all of us irrespective of party and opinion to improve our lot as well as art, literature and social base. "There is no alternative to the student community to help improve the independent identity of the nation," he said and added that they are in fact the future of the nation.

The President called upon the teachers and the educated section of the people to infuse sense of direction and knowledge among the students enabling them to become a real workforce of the country.

President Biswas said the present democratic government had given top priority to education by providing maximum allocation on the sector keeping in view the national interest.

He said the government had a plan to nationalise a college and a high school in each thana and added a bill had already been passed in parliament for establishment of a private university and a national university. Besides, the government had taken up programmes of mass literacy and primary education in phases in each village which together would be of great help to open doors to all education, he said.

The President said the present government was pledge-bound to ensure bare necessities of the commonman through proper utilisation of resources and reducing the level of unemployment.

"For that, we are now marching towards economic emancipation through imple-

menting various development programmes," he said, and sought the cooperation of all in the march towards changing the lot of the commonman.

Referring to the unprecedented development and traditional history of B M University College, President Biswas said hundreds of students, teachers and wellwishes had

rendered their relentless services to bring the college upto the present stage.

### ZIA'S CONTRIBUTION

He also recalled the contribution of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who declared the B M College as a University college.

President Biswas said the Barisal divisional headquarters was now being set up here and a full-fledged university will be established in future.

He thanked the college authorities and the students for their efforts to keep the college campus free from terrorism and said it was an unprecedented instance.

President Biswas recalled with gratitude the memory of the founder of the college late

Babu Ashwini Kumar Dutta and said, he had established the college during the British rule when the whole society was immersed into illiteracy and prejudices.

"A great social worker Babu Ashwini Kumar Dutta established the college after his father's name Babu Brojomohan Dutta in 1889 which was later termed as Oxford of Bengal for its standard of education," he said.

The President also recalled the contributions of late Ashwini Kumar Dutta's contemporaries like Maulvi Mohammad Wazed, Bihari Lal and Barrister P L Roy who led the movement for autonomy of Barisal during the British period.

He mentioned the names of late Swami Progyananda Saraswati, Satindranath Sen, Devendra Nath Ghosh and Monoranjan Guhathakurta for their roles during the anti-British movement.

President Biswas listed the names of some renowned personalities of Barisal like Shere-Bangla A K Fazlul Huq, Poet Mukundadas.