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Biswas opens centenary festival of JN Varsity College

Help expand edn facilities for building a illiteracy free nation

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Tuesday called upon all including the teachers community to help expand the education facilities for building a sound illiteracy-free-nation, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a three-day centenary festival of the Jagannath University College

at the college premises in Dhaka on Tuesday morning.

President Biswas said education was the driving force, which could help any nation to keep its head high and called for making all-out efforts in materialising the government programme of universal education system in the country.

He referred to various nation-wide programmes taken by the present democratic government in expanding the education facilities and said education sector had been given the highest allocation of fund in the national budget.

President Biswas pleaded for giving a new impetus to the mass-education programme to

get rid the nation of illiteracy. Recalling the contribution of the Jagannath College in the field of expanding education since it was established in 1884, he paid tributes to its founder Kishoree Lal Roy Chowdhury, a zamindar of Baliaati village under Manikganj district.

Earlier on his arrival at the college, President Biswas was received by the Principal of the college Dr. QITM Habibur Rahman, teachers and students.

President Biswas hoisted the National Flag at the college premises and took a salute from the college unit of the

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Bangladesh National Cadet Corps. He released pigeons and multi-coloured ribbons and balloons marking the centenary of the college. Hundreds of teachers and students including ex-principals, professors and student leaders attended the inaugural function.

President Biswas in his speech recalled the contributions of the students of the college in all progressive and democratic movements including those of the historic Language Movement in 1952 and the Liberation Struggle in 1971 and advised the students to follow the path of their predecessors in the struggle of making a decent sound society.

He pointed out that the cur-

rent rate of literacy in the country was not satisfactory and called for increasing investment in the education sector.

President Biswas stressed the need for institutionalising education in the vast rural areas for developing human resources. In this connection, he pointed out that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in 1979 had directed the concerned authorities to formulate necessary recommendations making the best use of the services of 1.75 lakh primary school teachers. But he regretted and said that programme could not be materialised as the autocratic regime created obstacles on the way of expanding education in the country.

He said had the programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman been executed, the nation could go a long way in achieving education for all and self-reliance. The sense of patriotism and love for the people of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was essential for the nation, he observed.

He announced that two mini-buses would be donated to the college.

Earlier in his address of welcome to the President, Principal Dr. Habibur Rahman gave a résumé of the activities of the college and said at present more than 30,000 students had been studying in the college.