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A pathfinder for the nation: Ershad

Khulna Varsity foundation laid

KHULNA, Mar. 9.—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today laid the foundation stone of Khulna University at Gollamari, about five kilometres from here, saying that the journey that had been started from the venue of the University in the educational and social life would remain a pathfinder for the nation for the coming days, reports BSS.

He said we had not merely laid the foundation stone of a University today but also established a meeting place for the humanity. "Our journey would take us to our desired goal and it is our united responsibility to achieve this great objective," he pointed out.

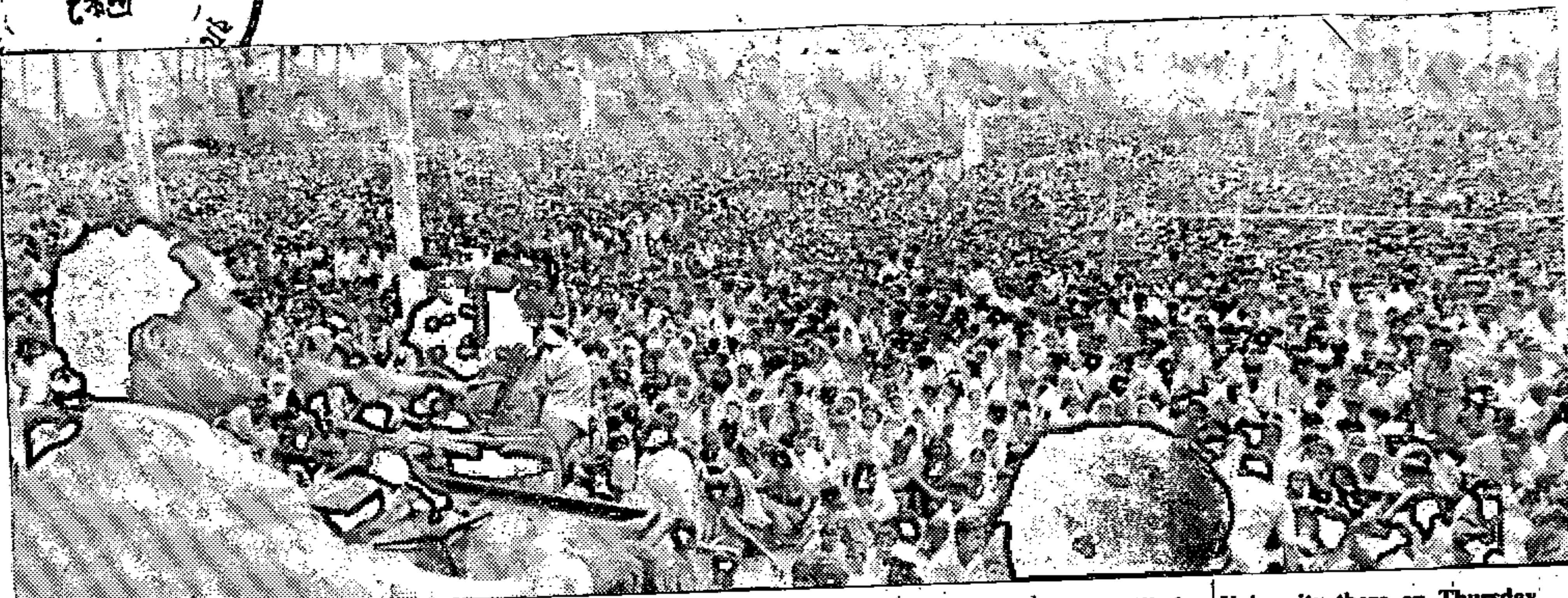
President Ershad formally laid the foundation stone of Khulna University amidst fanfare while hundreds of thousands of people spontaneously gathered there cheering him with thunderous applause and welcome slogans.

Pigeons were released and multi-coloured balloons with festoons went up in the sky as soon as the President laid the foundation stone at a podium erected specially for the purpose. Munazat was offered seeking devine blessings for the brighter and prosperous future of the University.

Deputy Prime Minister and Political Adviser to the President Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam and State Minister for Youth and Sports H.M.A. Gaffar also spoke on the occasion.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Nazimuddin Al-Azad State Minister for Information Syed Didar Bakht, Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Mufti Maulana Mohammad Wakkas, local Area Commander Major General R.A. Golam Mukhtadir and Members of Parliament were present.

Felicitating the people of Khulna See Page 10 Col. 4



President Ershad addressing a big public meeting at Gollamari after laying the foundation stone of Khulna University there on Thursday.

Khulna Varsity opens

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on this auspicious occasion of the foundation laying ceremony of Khulna University, President Ershad noted with happiness that the people had gathered in the meeting rising above political differences and that of the cast, creed and religion.

He said the political trend that had been created as a result of this would provide the nation a sense of direction and strengthen the political entity of the Nation. This he said, would provide the nation with inspirations to establish the country as a strong country in the world.

3rd plan allocation

The President referred to the allocation of Taka eight crore for the Khulna University in the Third Five Year Plan and quoted a noted educationist and philosopher who said the university is not merely a commodious and beautiful building but the birthplace of newer Knowledge, science and technology as well as torchbearer of progress and civilisation.

He said he had always attached great importance to education and hence the allocation for education sector had been increased from Taka 285 crore in 1982-83 fiscal year to over Taka 1156 crore in 1988-89 fiscal year. Emphasis had been given to technical and vocational education, he said.

President Ershad said during the last seven years 91 colleges and 144 schools had been nationalised. He said all these had been done to remove the curse of illiteracy from the society and to provide the nation an identity as an educated one in the international arena.

He said since he assumed the office his government had effected various epoch-making reforms and implemented programmes to improve the quality of life of the people. As a result, we had become economically stronger, he said adding today we are known as a strong nation in outside world.

The President said it was possible because the unity and determination. He hoped that this would continue for all the time to come to achieve greater successes in the coming days.

He prayed to the Almighty Allah to provide the nation enough strength so that it could build a better future by engaging hard work and devotion.

President Ershad announced amidst thunderous applause that the Rupsha bridge would be constructed and sought cooperation from the people to implement all the people oriented programme for uplifting their condition.

He said the bridge over the river Rupsha would help improve the functioning of Mongla port. Besides the university, medical college and hospital, the bridge would add a new dimension in the progress of the area, he said.

Kazi Zafar

Deputy Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said with the laying of foundation stone of Khulna University a dream of the people of the country had come true.

He said President Ershad had not only made all efforts to improve the education in the country but also established the teachers in their rightful place in the society.

He said during the last seven years, President Ershad had given the nation a sense of direction and determination as well as peace, stability, democracy and dignity. Besides, he said, as a result of reforms effected in various fields had provided the nation a new sense of enthusiasm to work hard for building a prosperous future.

Kazi Zafar said last seven years was a golden era of development, prosperity, progress and new consciousness and pointed out that President Ershad had proved during this period at home and abroad that he did not believe in the politics of talks. He would remain in the minds of the people for his deeds for all the times to come, he said.

Sk. Shahid

Addressing the gathering, Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said steps had been taken to start classes in the university as soon as possible. He described the foundation laying of the Khulna University as the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the country and said it was a glorious example of the sincerity of President Ershad to spread education.

Referring to the steps taken by the government of maintain the congenial atmosphere in educational arena, he said without this the nation would not be able to achieve its desired goal of removing the curse of illiteracy from the society.