

## Visits primary school in city

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Monday visited Kochi Kantha Biddya Niketan, a primary school set up by Kochi Kanther Ashar, at New Eskaton in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The President went round the classrooms and saw other facilities like training on music, dance, poetry recitation and painting offered in the school.

Kochi Kanther Ashar, a national children welfare organisation established in 1976.

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runs several projects in different parts of the country.

Besides the newly set up primary school at Eskaton, the Ashar runs rehabilitation project for destitute children in Dhaka, night schools in Dhaka, Sherpur and Sylhet, technical training centres at Narayanganj, orphanage at Gopalganj, small industries project at Gopalganj, free medical clinics at Sylhet and Gopalganj, feeding centres at Bogra, Gaibandha and Barisal, children science projects at Comilla, Jamalpur and Bhola and libraries for children literature at Barisal, Khulna and Tangail.

During the visit to the school, President Ershad, who is the Chief Patron of Kochi Kanther Ashar, evinced keen interest in its functioning. In a painting class, he was moved to see a tiny painter painting a portrait of a small girl and asked her if he could take it. She readily agreed to present the painting to the President.

Later speaking at a gathering of students, teachers and

guardians the President commended the role of the Ashar in promoting the cause of children and said children being the wealth of the nation, we must make allout efforts to build them as worthy citizens.

He said children should be imbued with the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism, patriotism and Islamic values so that they could build the country where there would be no deprivation and exploitation.

President Ershad advised the mothers to build their children as disciplined citizens and said there were large number of deprived children in the society who had been working for their livelihood instead of going to schools.

He said children should be taught in such a manner so that when they grow up, they do not forget their deprived brethren.

Shah Abdul Halim, founder and Chief Adviser of the Ashar and Secretary General Hamayet Hosain also spoke on the occasion.

Kochi Kanther Ashar, a non-political voluntary child welfare organisation, have 2.5 lakh members all over the country.