

Pathakali concept commended

DHAKA, Mar 3 (BSS): The visiting Director General of the UNESCO, Dr Federico Mayor Zaragoza called on President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at the President's Secretariat here this afternoon.

Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Education Secretary A.N.M. Eusuf, Director of the Principal Regional Office of UNESCO for Asia and Pacific Hedayet Ahmed and senior officer in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris S. Okajima were present.

During the meeting, the UNESCO Director General showed keen interest in the development of science and technology in Bangladesh and offered UNESCO assistance for carrying out studies on green house effect in coastal areas, coastal management and storm predictions in the country.

He also assured his organisation's support to Bangladesh in the areas of UNESCO's com

Contd. on page 8 col. 6

Pathakali concept

Contd. from page 1

petence including that of primary education and development in the fields of science and technology. He informed the President that UNESCO would soon post a technical expert in Bangladesh to coordinate his organisation's activities in the country.

Mr. Zaragoza commended the move taken by the Government of President Ershad to make primary education compulsory and education of girl students upto class eight free in the rural areas and said this was the manifestation of the political will of the Government to remove the curse of illiteracy from the country.

He was also appreciative of the move for setting up the Pathakali Trust at the initiative of President Ershad and said this example of imparting education and vocational training to those children who had to work for their living, was worth following by other countries.

The UNESCO Director General presented three medals and assured UNESCO's continued support to Bangladesh for preservation of historical monuments and heritage of the country.

He also invited President Ershad to visit UNESCO Headquarters in Paris at a suitable time and the President accepted the invitation.

President Ershad told the UNESCO Director General about the enthusiasm generated by the Pathakali Trust

among the members of the public which was evidenced from contributions of Taka 25 million by them.

He said he had already announced the decision that the responsibility of primary education to all children born on and after February 21 would be taken by the state.

The President invited the UNESCO Director General to visit Bangladesh again at a suitable time, if possible at the time of the formal inauguration of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology sometime in the later part of 1990.