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President Hussain Muhammad Ershad visiting the proposed school site for child-workers at Pagla, Narayanganj to be set up with the assistance from well-to-do people of Dhaka and Narayanganj

## School with a difference

A primary school, which is being built in the vicinity of Pagla industrial area in Narayanganj district for imparting education to the child workers employed in factories and workshops there and in brick fields on Dhaka-Narayanganj road for making brick chips, is not a usual one, reports BSS.

The school, with a difference, will not accommodate the usual students but those who earn their livelihood by putting in their hard labour from dawn to dusk so that they could stand on their own feet after getting educated.

Ten such schools will be built at the initial stage for imparting education to the child workers of the capital and other parts of the country at the direct initiative of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

President Ershad, who was moved to see the plight of the child workers during a

visit to the small-scale industrial estate at Daluikhal area in January this year, asked the Education Ministry to set up primary schools for these distressed children so that they could go to school after they finish their day's work.

He was also grieved to see the plight of child workers who make brick chips in brick field on Dhaka-Narayanganj road.

The President also successfully persuaded the employers of these distressed children to increase their wages and made arrangements to deposit the enhanced amount in savings accounts in their individual names. He also made arrangements with the Adhikar Trust a non-government organisation, to look after the accounts of the working children.

The amount of money, which will be accumulated in the accounts, will be given

to the respective child when they complete their education in the schools built for them so that they could utilise the money to stand on their own feet.

Affluent section of the society has already started coming forward with generous donations to build schools for these unfortunate children. The industrialists of Dhaka and Narayanganj have donated twelve lakh and ten thousand for building the school at Pagla.

The arrangements to build ten schools for the working children has translated into reality the long-cherished desire of President Ershad to do something for the welfare of these distressed children. President hopes more people belonging to the richer section of the society will come forward to extend their generous help to build more schools for the working children thus contributing in the national development efforts.