

Crash scheme for literacy under way

MANTALI-RAIKOT (Comilla) Aug. 28:— Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Minister for Education told a huge gathering here yesterday the unproductive anti-people colonial education system shall be replaced within the next three months by the one being formulated by the National Education Advisory Council committed to usher in generations of work force instead of producing aimless unemployed youths with so-called education reports BSS.

Each thana will have one agricultural and one technical school aimed at creating builders of the nation and not clerks. Vocational curricula will be added to the existing religious teachings in the madrasahs, Kazi Zafar declared.

Referring to his recent participation in the regional conference of the Education Ministers of 31 nations of Asia and Oceania in Colombo Kazi Zafar said he failed to understand why Bangladesh cannot achieve cent per cent literacy when People's China stands at hundred per cent, Sri Lanka at 90 per cent, Burma at 60 per cent, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia fast reaching its target.

He declared that the Government was working on a crash programme to realise the dream of the nation for scoring hundred per cent literacy and in the meantime banned note books upto class five slashed prices of text books at primary level by 25 per cent to unburden the guardians of the cost of education of their children.

Earlier at Comilla the Education Minister addressed a meeting of the district 'Swarnivar Committee' at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference Hall.

In the morning Kazi Zafar also addressed a mass meeting at Kankapa't High School ground at Chowddagram. The

meeting was presided over by the Chairman of Kankapa't Union Council who drew the attention of the Minister to the distressing condition of the school local bazar linking roads including the historic Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah Road and sought government assistance to overcome it. The locality also needed a bank branch for local traders and farmers he said.

The Minister in his reply assured the gathering all possible help from the Government and advised the accompanying officials of the Education Ministry to take note of the plight of the local educational institutions. He asked the district administration to help solve the problems.

At Mantali-Raikot in the Homnabad area across river Dakatia the Education Minister told the people that adequate attention henceforth would be given to the Mantali High School and the Madrasa roads from Amjader Bazar and from Banggadda on the Chowddagram—Laksam Road and Banggadda-Hassanpur Road will be improved bridges and culverts raised and the much demanded bridge across the river Dakatia shall be constructed to enable the people of Homnabad area get quick and easy access to the Chowddagram thana headquarters and the Dacca-Chittagong Grand Trunk Road. He also spoke of improving the conditions of the local Mantali, Zhatla Para bazars and electrification of the Homnabad area.

Later Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed attended an Iftar offering at Moukara Darunnessa Senior Madrasa where he also addressed another big congregation of ulema teachers and students of the madrasa and the local people.

The Education Minister categorically declared here that country's education policy could not be conceived of without involving the 20 lakh students and 60 thousand teachers of madrasahs. He also assured capital grant aid for the Moukara Darunnessa Senior Madrasa. Founder-Superintendent of the Madrasa Moulana Wallulla led a mona-

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at at the end of the congregation praying for the nation's welfare and progress.

Kazi Zafar addressed another meeting while he was visiting the Shukhchali (Chowdhury Bazar) Primary School at south Choddagram. He assured the school all necessary help, cooperation and assistance from the government. He called upon the teachers, students and the local people to engage themselves wholeheartedly in the nation-building tasks.