



Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman addressing the opening ceremony of Christian Secondary School Teachers Camp as chief guest on Thursday. —PID

## Compulsory free primary education from next plan

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said in Dacca on Thursday that compulsory free education for all would be introduced in the country during the next Five-Year Plan, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister said the scheme would be implemented as national movement and prime objective of the Government which is to create education opportunity for all upto the primary level.

He was inaugurating a teachers training camp of the Christian high schools under the auspices of Bangladesh Jatiya Church Parishad in Dacca on Thursday morning.

The Prime Minister said the Government would encourage education upto primary and secondary level for all but the higher education must be on selective basis."

He said to meet the scientific needs of modern life and civilisation government would evolve a system for non-formal technical education in the country.

The Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Education Ministry said that good aspects of the colonial education system would be protected while its bad aspects would be eliminated.

Shah Aziz said that the Government had already changed and modernised the curriculum

upto class — five as recommended by Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission Report. He said now arrangements were under way to change and modernise the curriculum upto Class VII while the rest would be changed phase by phase.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Prime Minister said that the Government believed in total religious freedom and hence the religious education would be made compulsory. He said that the religious education help a human being become a perfect human being and refrain himself from evil doings both in individual and social life.

The Prime Minister emphasised on discipline and peaceful academic atmosphere and said that discipline has been restored, and opportunities and scopes are being increased in the educational institutions so that students devote their minds to studies.

The Prime Minister said that

the expenses in the education sector were being borne by the Government as a legacy of the colonial rule in the country. He said in modern societies, education expenses were borne normally by the members of the public.

He said all the universities in the country were autonomous bodies, even then their expenses were being borne by the Government.

Shah Aziz said the Government was spending Taka 2,500 per month for each of the country's forty-five thousand free primary schools.

The function was also addressed among others by Rev. Subash Chandra Sangma, President of the Jatiya Church Parishad, Bangladesh and Dr. Serajuddin, Chairman of Bangladesh School Text Book Board.