

তারিখ... 17 MAY 1990

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## PM opens Islamic Varsity at Kushtia

KUSHTIA, May 16 (BSS): Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed today held a meeting with the local elite, administration and officials of different departments for ensuring temporary accommodation of the Islamic University and its various offices here.

He took some on-the-spot decisions and directed the concerned officials to implement these immediately.

Under his directive University Office would be shifted from Kushtia Stadium to Dak Banglow of Zila Parishad within three days. Some students would reside in the vacant space of the stadium.

Responding to the call of the Prime Minister for removing accommodation problems of the teachers and the students of the university he said Women College would vacate four rooms, Mohini Mills Rest House six rooms, Ganges-Kobadak Rest House four rooms, Roads and Highways Rest House three rooms, Works Department Rest House two rooms, Public Health Rest House two rooms and Rest Club two rooms.

Referring to the establishment of the Islamic University—the eighth university in the country—the Prime Minister said Islamic education at the highest level would be given here along with provisions for Islamic Research. At the same time he added, subjects of science and arts would also be taught in this university.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said the nation had felt the necessity for an institution like the Islamic University since a long time and today it had become a reality due to sincere desire and keen interest of President Ershad.

He said because of President Ershad's love for education, Compulsory Primary Education Bill was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad which, he added, had fulfilled the desire that the nation had been nurturing for the last 170 years.

The Prime Minister told the audience that the nation wanted to see the university as a seat of learning and not a place of violence.

Speaking on the occasion, Works Minister Mostafa Jamal Haider called for concerted efforts by all concerned to promote education in the country. He asked the Public Works Department to complete the construction of university buildings as quickly as possible.

In his presidential speech, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University Prof Sirajul Islam said the history of Islam was a shining "milestone" in the history of mankind. He expressed

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the hope that Islamic education would spread from this university along with the flourishing of knowledge in science and arts.

Later, the Prime Minister formally inaugurated the classes of the Islamic University at the local Primary Training Institute.

He urged the students to maintain an academic atmosphere in the campus.

He assured the students that there would be no problem with regard to their accommodation and classes even before the construction of buildings was completed.

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### PRY EDUCATION

Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed said here Tuesday night that the present government was committed to introduce compulsory primary education in the country.

Addressing a cross-section of people at the local Circuit House, he said that the government would be responsible if it failed to get the pledge translated into reality.

"It's a punishable offence if the guardians do not send their wards to school" he added.

The Prime Minister asked the primary teachers to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation as well as to help implement double-shift programme in the primary schools to be introduced soon.

Besides, morning shift will be introduced in all the 15,000 high schools, Colleges and Madrasahs of the country, he said.

Kazi Zafar, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Education, said an ambitious programme has been undertaken to construct 40,000 primary schools at a cost of Tk 1,200 crore.

### EDUCATION FOR ALL

Meanwhile BSS adds: Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed today underscored the need for "exceptional thoughts and steps" to ensure education for all which, he said, was not possible by following the traditional system.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function held in connection with the opening of classes of the Islamic University at the Shilpakala Academy here, he said the nation must overcome its backwardness by achieving progress at a galloping rate.