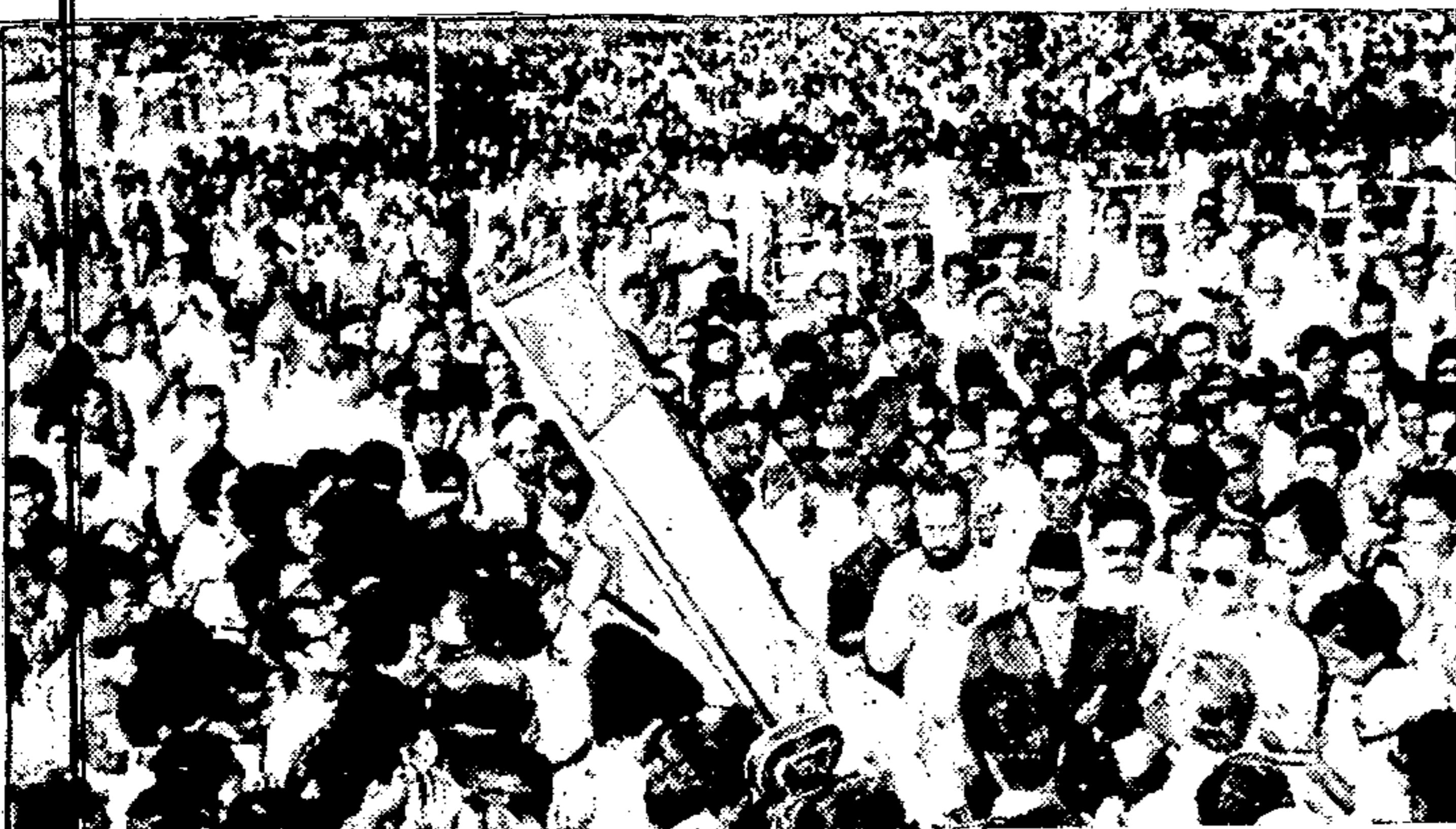


Zia



President Ziaur Rahman offering Pache after the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Islamic university at Santidanga-Dulalpur Mouza near Kushtia-Jessore border on Thursday.

—Photo PID

## Islamic Varsity to play vital role in our life

SANTIDANGA (Kushtia), Nov 23: President Ziaur Rahman said here today that the establishment of Islamic university in the country would open a new era of coordination between science and technology and Islamic education in Bangladesh, reports RSS.

The President, who laid the foundation stone of Bangladesh Islamic University at Santidanga, the bordering area of Kushtia and Jessore district, here this afternoon said, with the laying of foundation stone of the University the long cherished hopes and aspirations

and dream of the people of the country was fulfilled.

Describing the university as the first Islamic university in the eastern region of the world, the President held that this university would not only give leadership to the people of our soil but also guide the whole Muslim world in respect of Islamic teachings and thoughts.

Referring to the Government efforts for developing the scope of moral and religious education in the country President Zia said that within a short time an Islamic research centre would also be established near the capital city of Dacca.

The foundation-laying ceremony was also addressed, among others, by Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Secretary General of the BNP, Prof A.Q.M. Eadruddoza Chowdhury and Minister for Establishment Division, Major General (Retd) M. Mafedul Huq, Land Reform Minister, Mr Abdul Huq also attended the function.

Referring to his personal promise to the people in 1976 and during the time of referendum, the President said that a seven-member committee was set up two years ago to implement the scheme of establishing the university. The committee estimated a cost of Taka 35 crore for the university and by the grace of Almighty Allah it had come to reality today, he added.

Lauding the role of Islam in establishing justice and morality in the society, President Zia said that Islam — a dynamic

and everlasting religion was the combination of materialism, spiritualism and internationalism. The real teaching of Islam, he said, is to develop all sectors of our life on the basis of the everlasting ideology.

He also pointed out that the Islamic University would play a vital role in our social life for making a suitable combination of general education with religious education.

President Zia observed that in these days of erosion of values and morality, the principles of Islam would play a vital role. "I hope this university will set up a bridge in the field of exchanging thoughts among

Contd. on page 12 Col. 1

Contd. from page 1.  
the intellectuals of the world", he added.

The President also expressed his thanks to the Government of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait and Egypt for their assurance to provide help for the construction of the university.

SHAH AZIZ

Addressing the function, Shah Azizur Rahman said laying of the foundation stone of this Islamic University in the Kushtia division had fulfilled the long cherished dream of the people of this backward area.

"The policy of the Government is to provide facilities to the people of the backward areas of the country and the selection of site of this university is the manifestation of this policy", he added.

The Prime Minister said that Islam is a complete code of life and modern science and technology was the contribution of the Muslim scientists and philosophers.

The Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Education, said that this university would be residential and one of the modern universities of the world. In accordance with the need of the age the university would formulate its curriculum. It will have three faculties, including Islamic studies, social science and applied science and technology, he added.

The site of the university is just on the border of Kushtia and Jessore district. On completion one half the university will be in Jessore district and the other half will be in Kushtia district.

Thousands of people who gathered at the university site on the occasion raised full-throated slogans welcoming the university.