

## Active participation in mass literacy drive urged

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), May 10: The Prime Minister, Shah Azizur Rahman, today called up on the people from all walks of life to make their active participation in the country-wide mass literacy programme — the second phase of the peaceful revolution — launched by President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

He was addressing a big public meeting at Gouripur, Munshi Fazlur Rahman College ground here this afternoon. Shah Aziz said that the educated people, particularly the teachers and students of colleges, schools and madrasahs, should play a pioneering role to make this revolutionary programme of eradicating illiteracy from the country a success.

Shah Aziz, who is also in-charge of the Ministry of Education, said that henceforth Government grants and assistance to the educational institutions would be considered on the basis of their successful participation in the mass literacy programme.

Shah Aziz said that the students on the completion of the Secondary School Certificate examinations would require certificates on their participation in the mass literacy programme to seek next higher studies. Besides, participation in the mass literacy programme for the secondary students had been made compulsory as a part of curricula requirement, he added.

Outlining the different aspects of the politics and achievements of the Government, Shah Aziz said that Bangladesh Nationalist Party under the dynamic leadership of President Ziaur Rahman was determined to uphold and stimulate a democratic process in the country. 'We want to build a democratic institution in the country,' he added.

He said that Government believed in multi-party system and wanted a healthy growth of opposition in the country. He said without strong opposition, democracy was meaningless.

In this connection, Shah Aziz referred the release of the different opposition leaders including Khondker Mushtaque Ahmed of the D.L., Mr A. S. M. Abdur Rob and Major (Retd.) M. A. Jalil of the JSD and others of the Awami League despite they were convicted by the court on specific charges.

Shah Aziz said that release of the leaders of different opposition political parties would ensure better participation in the different economic development projects for the benefit of the masses.

Shah Aziz said that Bangladesh had already established a liable economic prospects among the developing countries of the Third World. Pointing out the next Five-Year Plan, he said massive development programmes particularly in the sectors of agriculture, rural development, industry, trade and com-

merce and communications were being envisaged in it.

Being impressed at the rapid success in the field of economic development many aid-giving countries, particularly the Islamic countries are showing much interest to finance our projects. 'Bangladesh is no more regarded as a bottomless basket,' he added.

He also referred to the formation of Swanirvar Gram Sarkar in each and every village in the country to expedite the rural based development.

Presided over by Mr Asgar Ahmed, Acting Principal of the Gouripur Munshi Fazlur Rahman College, the meeting was addressed, among others by Dr. M. R. Khan, Dr. Khandker Mo-sharraf Hussain Khan, Member of the Envoy Pool and Mr A. K. M. Abu Zahid, MP, District Development Co-ordinator, Comilla.

Earlier on his way to Gouripur, Shah Aziz was accorded a warm reception at Daudkandi ferryghat. Hundreds of people including the students of Ame-na Sultana Girls' High School, Hasnampur S. N. College and Daudkandi High School lined up at the ferry ghat to receive the Prime Minister. They also raised full throated slogans like, President Zia Zindabad, Bangladesh Zindabad.