

## Mass literacy drive forges ahead in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA Feb. 18.—The mass literacies campaign forges a head in the district.

In an interview with this correspondent Mr. Yahia Chowdhury Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education) said that 4,570 villages out of a total of 6,110 have so far been brought under the programme and 366 literacy centres and 84 Masjid Prokalpa have been set-up. About 6,500 literacy squads consisting of about 9,000 members including 3,200 females have been formed to pursue the Programme. Besides 66 valun-

tary organisation are also participating with mass literacy campaign in the district.

According to an official account about 2.08 lakh illiterate persons including about 60,000 females have been taught to read and write against a total of about 13.91 lakh illiterates including 6.93 lakh females. A total of about 5,87,200 books have so far been distributed among the learners.

To run the literacy centres about 13,900 teachers have been imparted training in mass literacy at union thana and district level. Besides 84 trained Imams have been engaged to run newly introduced Masjid Prokalpa.

The excavation and re-excavation of 28 canals with a total length of about 115 miles is going on in full swing through voluntary participation of people from all walks of life and a total of about 2.48 crore cubic feet of earth has already been excavated according to an official source.

According to the source report 35 canals with a total length of about 161 miles and have been included in the third phase of canal digging in the district. Completion of the canals would bring about 1,07,290 acres of land under irrigation and an additional yield of about 44.06 lakh maunds of food grains is expected the source added.