

## Islamic education programme in Barguna

BARGUNA, Jan. 12.—An extensive mass education programme of Islamic Foundation (IF), Bangladesh, is going on in full-swing at three villages of Betagi thana in this southern district, reports UNB.

The foundation introduced the programme in 1993 under its Mosque-based Integrated Non-formal Education Programme (MINEP) with a view to ensure education for all within the year 2000.

"The programme has gained confidence of the grass-root level people of the three villages in the thana", said M. Mahbubul Alam, Assistant Director of IF here.

He said that the number of people interested to the MINEP at Betagi was also increasing day by day.

According to IF officials, at present more than 500 juvenile and adults are taking primary and religious education through 18 non-formal schools set up at the villages.

Students of the programme, aged between 5 to 35, are facilitated with free educational materials supplied by IF authorities.

Officials said a good number of girl students have also been included in MINEP in Betagi. According to them, three libraries have been set for the programme at the thana.

Eighteen imams have also been appointed for making the programme a success. The imams were given proper training prior to their appointment.

Generally, Bengali, Mathematics and Arabic are taught at the MINEP schools and only students aged between 6 and 10 are facilitated with English course.

The MINEP in Betagi is scheduled to be concluded in December next. But, officials said, duration of this programme may be extended for yielding better result.

The Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh introduced the MINEP at one village in every district