

Govt to launch mass literacy programme : PM

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NATORE, Nov 16 (BSS): Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today reiterated her call to people for extending their all out cooperation to the government for giving democracy a permanent shape and lead the nation towards self-reliance.

"The democracy will become meaningless if we do not nurture and preserve it unitedly," Begum Zia told a mammoth public meeting at Natore Government College ground.

She said "you have extended your support during the anti-

autocratic movement and now you have to extend your fullest cooperation for the consolidation of democracy."

Presided over by the district BNP President Sirajul Islam the meeting was also addressed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal and State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain.

Sounding a note of warning the Prime Minister said certain quarters were active to destroy the democracy instead of consolidating it unitedly. They do not want development, they want to create chaos and confusion and disrupt peaceful atmosphere in the society, she added.

Begum Zia called upon the people to identify those who were engaged in disrupting normal civic life in the name of democracy. "Isolate them from the people so that they do not get the opportunity to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere," she added. She said with confidence that the peace-loving people would always discard those who wanted to destroy democracy.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and State

Mass literacy programme

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Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Huq also spoke on occasion.

Big ovation

The Prime Minister was received by a large number of a spontaneous crowd as she alighted from her helicopter. Thousands of people stood on both sides of the road leading to the meeting venue to greet Begum Zia. People were also seen standing on roof tops to have a glimpse of the Prime Minister.

People from far flung areas has waited since morning to listen to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister said the paddy procurement would start

from tomorrow by the government. The government will fix the paddy price properly to ensure fair price to the paddy growers. Begum Zia said telephone exchange system in Natore would be expanded and road between Naldanga and Natore would be constructed.

Outlining various development programmes of her government Begum Zia said "we will restart the canal digging programme" introduced by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, in the current dry season.

She said her government would reach electricity to rural areas under rural electrification programme which would be resumed in full swing soon to speed up industrialisation and create rural employment.

Begum Zia said the present government would provide small loans to rural people on easy terms for setting up small and cottage industries and raising poultry.

She said her government would start mass literacy programme and reconstruct the damaged primary schools to strengthen the basic education in the country. In this respect she mentioned that maximum allocation had been given in the education sector in the current budget.

The Prime Minister called upon the elderly people to see that the primary schools in their respective areas were run properly.

She said "we want to build a better future for our children."

Referring to her election pledges the Prime Minister said many of the pledges had already been fulfilled and her government was determined to fulfil the remainings one's for the all-round development of the nation.

She said peace and stability were pre-requisites for development of a country like Bangladesh. If we can maintain harmony and discipline we can attain development, she added.

Begum Zia said her government would take stern measures against smuggling which had been hampering the growth of our national economy. Terming it as a serious disease the Prime Minister said our industries, mills and factories would face dire consequences if smuggling was not stopped immediately, she added.

Begum Zia sought cooperation of the people in nabbing the smugglers and also extend cooperation to the government in its campaign against smuggling.