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## Education key to self-reliance: PM

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday underlined the need for nourishing and blooming of merit to gather and innovate appropriate technology for keeping pace with the changing world, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was addressing the national reception arranged at the Osmany Memorial auditorium in Dhaka for the meritorious students who secured position in the 1992 SSC examinations from four education boards.

Begum Zia called upon the meritorious students to prepare themselves for utilising their merit for the welfare of the poverty-stricken people of the country who work silently in fields and factories for building the nation. "We want you to be integrated with them", she told the students.

The Prime Minister said education is the key to self-reliance. An educated nation means a developed nation, she said adding because of this the government had given maximum stress on the spreading of education.

She detailed the programmes taken in the education sector including mass education, Primary education and female education and said necessary infrastructures were being built for the purpose. She said stress had been laid on the vocational and technical education for making education productive. We want that

the students should take complete benefit from the opportunities created in the education sector and flourish their merit.

The Prime Minister called upon all to work unitedly for resisting terrorism. Otherwise, the objectives of education sector would go in vain, she said.

Lauding the success of the students the Prime Minister said their success was pride for the nation. She hoped that they would be more successful in future without becoming satisfied with the present results.

The Prime Minister reminded them of their responsibility in reviving the lost rich heritage of the nation and said the entire nation was looking up at them with high hopes and aspirations.

The function was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Education Prof Md. Yunus Khan and Education Secretary Shafiu Alam.

Ministers, members of Parliament, guardians and high officials also attended the function.

The Prime Minister distributed gifts among the students who had secured first to 20th position in the merit list in science and social science groups of four education boards.

Begum Zia also took photographs with the girls and boys who stood first and second in the four boards.