

Education can build up skilled manpower: PM

GAZIPUR, Nov. 18.—Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today underlined the need for building up efficient leadership in all fields to leave for the country's future generation a more prosperous Bangladesh with greater potentiality, reports BSS.

She said university education is a valuable medium for attainment of the ultimate goal and added the universities would build up efficient and skilled manpower to take up the future leadership of the nation.

"Such leadership will have to be built in science and technology, in social and economic fields, in industries and commerce as well as in political and religious fields", Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the first convocation of the Bangladesh Open University at its premises here.

She said education is necessary to make the poor and the toiling masses more effective and production-oriented.

"Proper education and training alone can transform them into human resources," she added.

The Prime Minister said that the Open University had been established with the commitment of implementing the universal right to education.

She underlined the need for the access to education of the innumerable people in rural areas, who are deprived of education.

Vice-Chancellor of the Open University Prof. M. Shamsur Ali spoke on the occasion while the convocation speech was delivered by Mr. Azizul Huq, a former presidential adviser.

Ministers, academicians, members of the Board of Governors and Academic Council of the Open University and representatives of the diplomatic missions were present on the occasion.

The convocation procession entered the hall with the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the University, Begum Khaleda Zia, marking the beginning of the ceremony.

The Bangladesh Open University

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(BOU) tune was played when the procession entered the hall.

Prof. Shamsul Kabir, Dean of the School of Education, presented about three thousand graduates for conferring the degrees.

The Prime Minister conferred degrees on the students and distributed certificates among them.

Begum Khaleda Zia left the hall leading the procession immediately after the end of the ceremony.

The Prime Minister extended her heartiest congratulations to those on whom degrees were conferred in the August ceremony.

Describing the Bangladesh Open University as a unique institution for higher education Begum Zia said BOU had established the universal right to education.

She said BOU would remain as a milestone in the implementation of the strong commitment to universal education that has been enshrined in the great religion of Islam as well as in the country's constitution.

The Prime Minister said BOU had created a scope for those who are deprived of education for various reasons, to pursue their education in this university from their places of employment or homes.

The door of education, she said, had been opened by this university for the rural women, house-wives, primary and secondary school teachers and health and family planning workers.

There is no age-bar and time limit for passing out in BOU, Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister said that convocation was almost lost from the memory of the university students after the independence of the country. She said after elected to power the BNP government again started holding of convocation ceremonies in the universities including Dhaka University, BUET, Agriculture University and Islamic University.

Begum Zia said that the Bangladesh Open University Act was passed after the BNP took over the responsibility of running the state.

The activities of the Open University began in 1992, she said and added the BOU had been working sincerely for the last few years to achieve its goal.