

## PM's call to restore lost glory of DU

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the Dhaka University teachers to make united and dedicated efforts to ensure congenial academic atmosphere enhance standard of education and restore the lost glory of the university, reports BSS.

Talking to a 13-member delegation of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), who called on the Prime Minister at her office in Dhaka on Thursday morning, Sheikh Hasina called for total eradication of terrorism from the campus. As a legacy of the past regime, illegal arms are available here and there and it is tough to tackle the situation, she said.

"There is no dearth of sincerity of my government to fight the armed terrorists, whoever they might be," the Prime Minister said while seeking allout cooperations from the teachers community.

Earlier, DUTA President Prof. M Mostafa Chowdhury in his introductory speech lauded various steps of the government in social, political and economic sectors.

He particularly appreciated the decision of her government to run the country through a national consensus.

Mr. Chowdhury also congratulated the Prime Minister for the annulment of the Indemnity Act paving the way for trial of the killers of the Father of the Nation.

Later, DUTA General Secretary Prof. Mohammed Hossain Mansur, while presenting a DUTA memorandum to the Prime Minister solicited her intervention and cooperation in solving various problems of the Dhaka University teachers including their housing problems and medical facilities. Mr. Hossain Mansur also sought Prime Minister's initiatives in

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providing enhanced facilities for higher training, research and foreign studies as well as formation of centres of excellence to raise the standard of scientific and technological research and studies. He also demanded rationalisation of pay structure and other facilities for the university teachers.

The Prime Minister, while assuring the delegation members of solving their various problems in phases, said that she would instruct the Health Ministry to take necessary measures to upgrade the existing medical centre of Dhaka University into a full-fledged hospital. She also donated Taka five lakh for the medical services of the DUTA members.

The Prime Minister said, "the prime objective of her government is to establish a poverty and hunger-free society." It is possible only through spreading education, she said.

In this regard Sheikh Hasina sought full cooperation from the teachers' community in eradicating the curse of illiteracy from the national life within the stipulated period. "Inshallah a much more wider, much more brighter and much more prosperous future is awaiting the nation as we are blessed with enormous natural resources and huge-potential manpower."

The Prime Minister further said that the image of the country has been enhanced significantly in the world. As a result foreign countries are now ready to invest in Bangladesh and help the country in its march towards economic progress and prosperity.

Referring to various issues placed before her by the DUTA, the Prime Minister said she would issue fresh instruction to quicken the process of the trial of killing of talented University teacher Nuban Ahmed. She assured DUTA of solving their accommodation problem, saying that initially 50 flats would be constructed soon.

The Prime Minister said that she would also consider re-introduction of "Dhaka University Overseas Training Programme" which was introduced by Bangabandhu and later suspended after his brutal killing.

The Prime Minister, while talking about raising the standard of education, stressed the need for using modern scientific method in imparting education. She deplored the pitiful system of education, the country

still upholding and hoped that situation would be changed positively. She called upon the DUTA to take necessary steps to attract foreign help in procuring modern and scientific educational inputs and devices for upgrading the teaching system. "My government will extend allout help and assistances in this regard," she added.

The other delegation members included Prof. RIS Aminur Rashid, Prof. SM Mahfuzur Rahman, Prof. Mohammad Shahadat Ali, Prof. SM Imamul Haq, Prof. Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Prof. ABM Mahmud, Prof. Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, Dr. Abdul Hakim Sarker, Mrs Kazi Afroj Jahan Ara and Prof. ZN Tahmida Begum.