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Khaleda opens Barisal mass edn meet today

BARISAL, Aug. 23—Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a review meeting on primary and mass education of Barisal division here tomorrow (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Officials said the Prime Minister will be apprised of the enrolment in primary schools and progress of the mass education project in the division.

The Primary and Mass Education Department has arranged the meeting at Awasikumar Town Hall at 11 am.

A district level review meeting with the Thana Education Officers on August 11 revealed that a total of 3,07,404 children of the age group 6-10 out of the total of 3,61,364 had been enrolled in different schools of the district this year.

There are 945 government and 225 non-government primary schools in 10 thanas of the district.

The meeting, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, could not give any figure of dropouts.

The District Primary Education Officer told UNB that the dropout rate had been now reduced to 40 per cent from 60 per cent a few years ago. Poverty was identified as the main cause of the dropout.

The schools in the rural areas are facing shortage of funds and furniture as well as other essential tools, he added.