

Body to be formed to enhance salary of non-govt pry teachers

# Society will be freed from clutches of terrorism, poverty: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday said her government was pledge-bound to free society from the clutches of terrorism, poverty and deprivation through economic emancipation and ridding the nation of the curse of illiteracy. reproto BSS.

"We want to see peace and stability prevail in the country and the nation prosper gradually with the present government's development programmes," she said but added that the BNP was now out to create social disorder through its destructive politics.

The Prime Minister said the government had already taken various measures towards so-

cial progress but BNP, which lost the popular elections on June 12 and became bewildered, was now hatching conspiracy against and giving threats to the present government through various undemocratic ways.

"They do not even want to accept the mandate of the peo-

ple which was given in the June 12 elections," she said while referring to the abusive words hurled at the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad by a BNP member of parliament on August 25.

The Prime Minister was addressing the members of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers' Association

at her office in Dhaka.

Founder Chief Adviser of the Association and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir was present on the occasion.

Earlier, Association's President Golam Mohammad, Secretary General Mansur Ali and member of the advisory council Tafazzal Hussain spoke on the occasion.

Mr. Mansur Ali in his speech said that the governments during the last 21 years had introduced various slogans in the education sector but did nothing mentionable in this arena.

He said the demands of his association were never taken into cognisance during this period but discrimination was created by those governments depriving them of their legitimate rights.

The Prime Minister said she was aware of their condition and apprised them of the situation in which the present government was formed after the

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June 12 elections.

She said the present government had inherited a dilapidated economy with 45 lakh tons of foodgrain deficit and indiscipline in all key sectors.

"The parties in power in the past developed themselves but paid no attention to basic problems over the last 21 years," she said adding her government had all sincerity to look into all problems including those of the non-government teachers. She, however, requested them to realise the present reality.

Sheikh Hasina, earlier, thanked the Association members for their participation in the movement for restoration of the people's rights and also rejection of the farcical February 15 elections.

She described the primary education as the base of education and said her government would ensure education for all

as per the constitutional provisions.

Sheikh Hasina referred to her government's programme of eradication of illiteracy from the country over the next 10 years and sought their participation in it through mobilising a social movement to bring success in this noble task.

"We want to see a school in each village to enlighten all children with education," she said; adding that her government would do it by making education universal as well as removing all problems faced by teachers to uphold their dignity in society.

In this respect, the Prime Minister said that the Education Ministry would form a committee to look into the matter of enhancing the salary and allowances of non-government primary teachers as they should not get less salary than others.

"We will do it in the right time," she assured the Association members who applauded it through repeated clapping.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recalled the movement of the nongovernment primary school teachers and said her party had expressed its solidarity with them by providing all possible help.

"When you were sitting in the Press Club premises to realise your demands, we stood by you at that time by rejecting the dinner hosted by the then Prime Minister in her official residence at Hare Road here," she said.

She said her party, Bangladesh Awami League, had always been with them and would be with them in future also to try to serve these key elements of society.

Reaffirming the government's assurance for improving the condition of non-government primary teachers, Sheikh Hasina said her government was seeking an all-out cooperation to implement the development programmes for social uplift as well as to establish peace and stability in the country.

Stressing a congenial atmosphere for rapid development, the Prime Minister put due emphasis on uprooting terrorism from the country and sought an all-out cooperation in this regard from all quarters.

She said cooperation from all sections of the people would also help her government build a solid base from primary education, the basic foundation for ensuring a better future for the nation.

The Association leaders presented Sheikh Hasina an "address of honour" and a bouquet and congratulated her on becoming the Prime Minister of the country.

Members of the Advisory Council, central leaders and leaders of the district and thana committees of the Association were present.