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# Education to be democratised Campus violence to be stamped out: Khaleda

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Sunday said democracy and violence cannot go together.

"We want to uproot violence from educational institutions. The prime responsibility in this regard lies with the teachers. The responsibility of students and guardians is equally important," the Prime Minister said, adding the government will certainly play its due role in eradicating violence from the campuses.

Inaugurating a 2-day national level function of the National Education Week at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium, Begum Zia said the people of the country are grateful to the students for their glorious role in the anti-autocracy movement. "But it is time for them to devote themselves to studies and help create an atmosphere conducive to preservation and de-

velopment of democracy." She said people know who let loose reign of terror in campuses during the autocratic rule.

Expressing her government's firm determination to ensure peace in campuses the Prime Minister said it is necessary in the interest of students and education as a whole.

A confident Khaleda Zia said the government or the law enforcing agencies will no more be a silent spectator to violence in educational institutions. "The culprit, whoever he may be, must be punished. A criminal is none else but a criminal. He must have to get the due punishment," she assured.

The inaugural function, which was also addressed by Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, State Minister for Education Principal M Yunus Khan and Educa-

tion Secretary ANM Eusuf was followed by a seminar on "education and democracy". The seminar presided over by the Education Secretary heard the keynote paper from the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof M Shamsul Haq. Several Members of the Parliament, educationists and journalists took part in the discussion.

A large number of teachers and students from different parts of the country attended the function.

The Prime Minister hoped that the participants in the Education Week programme would find solutions to the problems of copying in the examinations and campus violence. She said democracy does not mean only criticism of others, it also calls for self-awareness and responsibility.

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