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Khaleda asks all to take spread of edn as national issue

Campus to be only for pursuit of knowledge

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday called upon all irrespective of affiliation to any party or opinion to consider education as a national issue for the sake of its proper expansion, reports BSS.

The existence of the nation depends on education so all of us have equal responsibility and duty to help spread education," Begum Zia said.

Begum Zia was addressing the handing over ceremony of two markets at Kantaban and Palash, to Dhaka University and BUET respectively held at International Conference Cen-

tre (ICC). The function was also addressed by Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas MP, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Moniruzzaman Mian and Vice Chancellor of BUET Mr Shahjahan.

The Prime Minister said the spreading of education was necessary to fulfil the commitment to the people of consolidating democracy. Under democracy there is no room for terrorism, she said, adding "we are determined to uproot terrorism and it is our sacred commitment to the nation."

Begum Zia said terrorists

had no party and they had no identity other than a terrorist. She said "let all of us declare together that there will be only pursuit" of knowledge in the campuses.

The Prime Minister said the emphasis had to be given on the qualitative education to establish the nation as educated and prestigious among the world community. She said as the university was the source of qualitative education the improvement of the standard of university education was necessary.

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Campus for pursuit

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Begum Zia said during the last one year the government had taken different steps for the expansion of education especially the higher education. Detailing the development programmes in the education sector like opening of a university at Khulna, establishing of an open university which carry completely a new conception for the country and setting up of new medical colleges, she said physical infrastructure and other facilities have been increased manifold.

The Prime Minister expressed her happiness that the government was able to fulfil the long standing demand of the Dhaka University and BUET by handing over the markets to them. She hoped that the funds to be raised from these markets would contribute significantly to their development and research activities.

The Kantaban market has been built at a cost of Taka 88 lakh by Dhaka Municipal Corporation. The market has 170 shops. The Palash market has 22 pucca shops and 174 temporary shops. Later, the Prime Minister handed over the documents of the markets to the Vice Chancellors of the two universities.

LGRD and Cooperative Min-

ister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan also attended the function among others.

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mian said in Dhaka on Monday the government was sincere and bold in checking terrorism in campus.

He was addressing the handing over ceremony of two markets at Palash and Kantaban held at the International Conference centre in Dhaka.

The Vice Chancellor underlined the need for united efforts of all quarters to eliminate terrorism from campuses.

The Vice Chancellor said the funds to be raised from the markets would immensely help in the development and education programmes of the Dhaka University. He said the lack of space for such a big population of Dhaka University was one of the reasons for unrest in the campus. He hoped that the government would be able to maintain academic atmosphere in the educational institutions of the country.

The Bangladesh Chhatra Kalyan Sangstha on Monday submitted a memorandum at the Prime Minister's office.

The memorandum contains a seven-point proposals, including calls for starting sports and cultural activities in each educational institute, constituting non-political forum of students, teachers and guardians there and implementing compulsory primary education.

The Chhatra Kalyan Sangstha in its memorandum also spelled out its future programme for the benefit of the students and the youth.