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Help education for all plan: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka Tuesday that special emphasis had to be laid on education to remove the curse of illiteracy, which would help solve numerous other problems of the people and the nation, reports BSS.

She said all forces of society irrespective of party affiliations and opinions would have to play an active role side by side with the government's efforts to ensure the goals of education for all.

The Prime Minister was

presiding over the first meeting of the national committee on education at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

Begum Zia, who is the chairperson of the national committee on education, said an acceptable and realistic national plan of action would be taken to guarantee education for all.

Earlier, S.M. Al-Hossain, a member of the committee and former Chairman of the Public Service Commission, presented the draft national plan of action for education for all and explained it before the members of the committee.

He said the national plan of action for education for all upto 2000 AD provided principally a seven-year plan of action the implementation of which would need Taka 19,000 crore.

The Prime Minister said that the committee members would have to sit again for discussions and suggestions and the national plan of action for education for all would be made

realistic and acceptable to all.

She termed primary education as the base of education and said education would be given utmost importance as the successful implementation of this would help remove numerous other problems of the people.

Referring to the recently-introduced food for education programme, Begum Zia said this programme would be expanded and the schools of the poverty-stricken areas would be included first under this programme.

The Prime Minister said nobody should see this programme from a narrow party angle and sought cooperation of all sections of people to make the programme a success as it started yielding good results.

Begum Zia said her government was contemplating providing dress for the poor school children.

Referring to the demands of nationalisation of schools being raised by school children at

her public meetings at different parts of the country, the Prime Minister said this should be stopped.

She also said strike, movement and other unjust demands in the educational institutions should be stopped and not be supported by any quarter including the opposition for the sake of achieving the goals of education for all.

Begum Zia underlined the importance of imparting professional training to the school teachers for improving the standard of education and ensuring regular presence of the teachers in schools.

The Prime Minister asked the retired government officers and employees to enquire about education and the functioning of the schools in their respective areas.

She urged all quarters to work with sincerity and dedication to make the on going programmes of her government

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success.

Nizamuddin MP, Khurshid Jahan Huq MP, Azizul Huq MP, Ma Ma Ching MP, Sheikh Ansar Ali MP, Selima Rahman MP, Enamul Huq MP, Secretary of Primary and Mass Education Division Kazi Rakibuddin, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare K.M. Fariduddin, Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof. Shamsul Huq, former adviser Alamgir Kabir, Founder Secretary of Bangladesh Literacy Association Osman Gani, Firoz Noon, Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Sheikh Abdul Halim spoke on the occasion.