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Literacy rate up by 10 pc in 4 yrs

# Khaleda calls for spread of primary education

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Wednesday sought people's active cooperation in the spread of primary and mass education to eradicate illiteracy from the country, reports BSS.

"Enkindle the torch of education in the heart of each child, in each home of the country," the Prime Minister said urging all irrespective of opinions to supplement the government's epoch-making programme on primary and mass education in the country.

Speaking at the award-giving ceremony organised on the occasion of the National Education Week at Osmany Memorial Hall auditorium, in Dhaka Begum Zia said "let us work unitedly to face the challenges of the 21st century."

An unprecedented awakening, Prime Minister said, has been created in the field of primary education due to coordinated programmes undertaken by the government for the spread of education.

The rate of literacy has in-

creased by ten per cent in the country during the last four years, Begum Zia said. She said about 92 per cent children, who have attained the school going age, are now getting admission to schools.

The rate of school drop-outs, had reduced by 20 per cent while the admission and attendance of girl students to school increased, the Prime Minister said.

Organised by Primary and Mass Education Division the function was also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Secretary Primary and Mass Education Division Qazi Rakibuddin

Ahmed and Director General of Primary Education Directorate Azizur Rahman Chowdhury.

The Prime Minister distributed awards among the teachers, concerned officials and the persons who have notable contributions for the spread of education.

The successful primary school students, who excelled in the cultural competitions, received awards from the Prime Minister for their best performances in recitation, folk song, acting, dance, painting and speech.

This year awards were also given for the best ward committee, best school managing committee, best official

[Primary and Mass Education Department], best patron of education, best school and best teacher.

Mrs. Saleha Begum, Assistant Teacher of Nababganj Government Primary School of Lalbagh, Dhaka received the award as the best national primary teacher while Patarhat Government Primary School of Mehindiganj thana under Barisal district won the prize of the best national primary school.

Each awardee was given a medal, a cheque and certificate.

The Prime Minister extended her sincere thanks to the awardees and asked them to continue their best efforts for the promotion of education in the country.

Congratulating the school students who received prizes for their best performances in different branches of culture Begum Zia advised them to devote themselves to studies to build them as worthy citizen.

The Prime Minister said that it is their constitutional as well as political commitment to ensure primary education for every citizen of the country.

To fulfil this commitment, she said, the BNP Government had attached much importance to Primary Education in order to eliminate illiteracy from the society.

Referring to the introduction of compulsory primary education in 1993 the Prime Minister said that the people of all spheres were now having its beneficial effects.

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The BNP Government, she said, had taken various programmes including the highest budgetary allocation to education sector to ensure education for all.

Referring to the setting up of new school, development of all government and non-government schools, and setting up of community and satellite schools the Prime Minister said our children are now having schools in their doorsteps.

The government, she said, supplied 8.21 crore text books this year to the students of primary schools.

Rather steps, Begum Zia said, had been taken to increase the standard of education and curricula, and for the training of the teachers.

About 12 lakh poor families are now being benefitted and

their children going to schools due to the introduction of "food for education" programmes, she said.