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Medical varsity to be set up

Khaleda urges doctors to earn people's love

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka on Sunday that her Government had a plan to set up a medical university and more medical colleges in the country, reports BSS.

She said the Government had also a plan to expand the existing hospitals on priority basis.

"In future programmes will be taken with due priority to set up a medical university, more medical colleges and expand the hospital," she told the first national conference of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) at Ziaur Rahman Hall of the Shishu Academy.

She said her Government was firmly pledge-bound to fulfil the five basic needs of the people-food, clothing, education, medicare and shelter. "The five basic demands of the people will get top priority in our future programme," she added.

The function was also addressed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Convenor of DAB Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain and Joint Convener Dr. Tauhidur Rahman Boby.

The Prime Minister said the doctors who would go to the villages and extend their services to the rural people would get priority in getting higher education and training abroad.

She said although 90 per cent of the country's population live in the villages the availability of medicine and physicians was comparatively less there. She said she often received complaint the doctors refused to go to the upazilas or unions when they were transferred there. They start strong lobbying to cancel their transfer orders and stay in the city areas, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Begum Zia said parents or close

relatives of most of those who had become physicians now live in the villages. She reminded the physicians that a large portion of expenditure for their higher education comes from rural people. She questioned what would happen to your parents, relatives and others who were providing money for your education if you turn away your faces from them?

Begum Zia called upon the doctors to earn love and respect of the people and get close to their hearts by giving them services imbued with the spirit of welfare.

In this context, the Prime Minister pointed who demanded high fees for their services and said "But the lust for money is not consistent with your noble profession."

Referring to the mushroom growth of modern clinics in different urban including the capital Dhaka Begum Zia said from this growth it might be apparently felt that healthcare had been reached to every doorstep but

in reality it was not like that. She said many of the patients could not get benefit from these clinics because of high expenditure.

Begum Zia said she wanted that more clinics are established in the country but it would be a matter of happiness if the clinics arranged free treatment for the poor patients for one or two days a week. She suggested that the doctors could join together and run free clinics in every Mohullah.

The Prime Minister said she was aware of the problems of the physicians and was eager to know of their problems. She assured them that her government would relentlessly work for solving their problems.

Role of physicians praised

Highly praising the role of the physicians in ousting the autocracy she said Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan (See Page 8 Col. 3)

Khaleda

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Milon had shed his blood to pave the way of democracy. She said the nation would never forgive the killers of Shaheed Milon. They would be tried and punished, she added.

Begum Zia also highly appreciated the role played by the physicians in providing medicare to the distressed humanity of the diarrhoea and cyclone-affected areas at the hour of their needs.

The Health Minister called upon the doctors to strengthen their role in case of Hospital Administration to improve the existing condition of the hospitals.