

Campus violence is planned : PM

KHULNA, Nov 25 (BSS): Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today sought unstinted cooperation of all parties and quarters to eliminate terrorism from the campuses saying making the educational institutions free from this scourge was not the responsibility of the government alone.

She said "on our part we are firmly determined to establish a proper and congenial atmosphere in the educational arena."

The Prime Minister was addressing the opening ceremony of academic activities of the newly-founded Khulna University.

Begum Zia said a parliamentary committee was formed to make in-depth review of terrorism on the campuses and recommend ways and means to curb it. As soon as the report is received, the government would take steps to realise the recommendations of the committee.

The Prime Minister said "I believe there is a deep-rooted and planned conspiracy behind terrorism on the campus." The conspiracy had been hatched to paralyse the education system of the country and hinder the national development and progress, she said.

She said "this cannot be allowed to continue further. We want to uproot the evil ring of terrorism."

The function was addressed, among others, by Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Dr Golam Rahman.

Terming terrorism as cancer, the Prime Minister held it responsible for brain drain, session jam and unemployment. "We are feeling to the bones the

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evil effects of terrorism in the educational arena," she said.

She called upon all on the auspicious occasion of the beginning of the academic activities of Khulna University to pledge to resist terrorism so that it could not touch any educational institution any more.

The Prime Minister said democracy, cherished by the deprived and oppressed people of the country for a longtime, had been established now. She said

"we are working ceaselessly to fulfil the expectations of the people from the democratic government." She hoped to achieve success in this regard as the people were with the present government.

Reminding the students of their responsibilities under the changed circumstances, the Prime Minister said "you are future. You must prepare yourself for mitigating the poverty and sufferings of the people. Your motto should be the flourishing of talent and intellects not terrorism."

The Prime Minister said the present government wanted to start a production-oriented and democratic education system as per the demand of the nation.

She was happy to note the students of Khulna University had pledged to discard the politics of terrorism and maintain an atmosphere congenial to education in the university.

She hoped the new University would contribute immensely in achieving the target in the education sector by the present government.

While dwelling on the steps taken by the present government to solve the existing problems of Khulna city, the Prime Minister said Rupsha bridge would be constructed to improve communication in the area.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Khan Jahan Ali Hall at the University premises. The hall will be built at a cost of Taka seven crore.

On her arrival in Khulna, Begum Zia went straight to Barabazar which was burnt one month back in a devastated fire. Thousands of people standing on the bank of the river by which the Prime Minister was passing by a launch waved hands and greeted

her.

Addressing a spontaneous gathering at Barabazar area, the Prime Minister underscored the need for maintaining peace and stability in society for achieving progress in all sectors.

She said she had come to Barabazar to see the extent of damage caused by the fire. Taka 22 lakh had been disbursed including price of CI sheet for the rehabilitation work in Barabazar, she said and added every effort would be made to reconstruct the area.

Underlining the need for checking terrorism, the Prime Minister sounded a note of caution to the terrorists saying they would not be spared whatever party they belong to.

Meets officials

Later, addressing the Khulna Division and district level officials at Khulna Commissioner's office, she said "under the democratic process we have to motivate the people to involve them in the development activities of government to make those successful."

Dwelling on the economic development of the country, the Prime Minister underlined the paramount need for curbing smuggling at any cost to help the local industry to grow and flourish.

She lauded the role of government officials including BDR, Navy, Customs and others concerned in checking smuggling.

The Prime Minister said the existing laws could be changed to check smuggling effectively.