

PM declares 2003 as 'Good Education Year'

UNB, Dhaka

Declaring the year 2003 as "Good Education Year", Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for attaining minimum standard of education in all educational institutions of the country during the year-long campaign.

"Now I'll not only hope, but also demand, that all educational institutions of the country ensure minimum standards of education, although it's not possible to achieve high standards of education at some government and non-government institutions. But minimum standards have to be achieved in one year," she told a function launching the campaign.

The prime minister also announced that a decision had been taken to constitute a National Education Commission to formulate a National Education Policy to

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PHOTO PO

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the prize-giving ceremony of the National Education Week 2003 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

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modernise education system in keeping with national values and thoughts.

Addressing the prize-giving ceremony of National Education Week 2003 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Khaleda said her government innovated and introduced many programmes for expansion of scope and incentives for education.

At the function, the prime minister gave four computers to the headmaster and the principal of one school and one madrasah, initiating the distribution of 25,000 computers among educational institutions, one of her government's priority programmes.

She also formally opened this year's textbook distribution giving away books of primary and secondary schools and madrasahs to some students.

This is for the first time that a government is providing books free of cost to the students of Ebtedayi madrasahs.

Khaleda also gave away prizes to those students of schools, colleges, madrasahs and universities who secured first position in national competitions in different fields, including Kerat, Hamd, essay writing, poetry recitation, extempore speech, songs, dance, acting and debate.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruq, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon and Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu also spoke on the function.

Addressing the function, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said another objective of announcing the year 2003 as Good Education Year is to make every teacher attentive to developing the human and moral values in each student.

Listing her government's ongoing pragmatic programmes and plans for promotion of quality schooling, Khaleda told the function that "Shaheed Ziaur Rahman ICT Scholarship" is being introduced from the secondary level to higher studies to provide assistance to poor and meritorious students in Information Communication

Technology education.

She also mentioned an initiative already taken to institute Prime Minister's Scholarship for poor meritorious girl students in ICT education at the university level.

Informing her audience from the academic arena that the public examination system is being reformed, she said a project had been taken to build multipurpose halls for examinees each with a seating capacity of 2,000 in every upazila in phases.

Citing the sorry state of some educational institutions, the prime minister said the existing faults and inconsistencies in the education system would have to be removed.

In this respect, she said the country's education system is not well planned while there are discrepancies in the standard of education.

Referring to the educated unemployed people, Khaleda said the country would have to proceed towards introducing a planned profession and vocation-oriented education system to meet the demand of time.

Mentioning the theme of the Education Week "Education for Self-reliance", the PM said the dictum would come true if the education system can cope with the challenges of the 21st century.