

Rokeya's ideals to inspire womenfolk: President

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Tuesday expressed his firm confidence that the ideals and awakening spirit of Begum Rokeya would inspire the country's womenfolk in their march towards progress and prosperity, says BSS.

"The efforts of women emancipation started under her initiative, has now gained much momentum and everybody recalls with great respect her contribution towards women education in this part of the world", he said in a message on the eve of the Begum Rokeya Dibash.

Expressing his deep respect to Begum Rokeya, the pioneer of women emancipation and education, President Justice Shahabuddin said this great lady gained knowledge on her own initiative by being under the muslim purda system and struggled throughout her whole life to spread education among the women in the region.

The President stressed the need for making wider the progress of women education and their rights which has already been achieved in the country. "I welcome all initiatives designed for greater social progress and especially for the women in the country", he said.

Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday said the present government has already adopted a national women development policy and work plan to ensure participation of women in the nation-building activities side by side with their male counterparts.

"We have already undertaken an extensive programme for the development of women, their education, employment and realization of their rights in terms of equality with their male counterparts", she said in a message on the eve of Begum Rokeya Dibash.

The Prime Minister referred to the launching of Begum Rokeya Award for women activists who would contribute towards overall women development and urged all to come forward with their political and social commitment to work for the womenfolk through upholding the ideals of Begum Rokeya.

"The present government is pledge-bound to see that women are active in the development activities and with that in view we are giving loans on easy terms to the distressed and less privileged women with necessary training for their self-employment", she said in her message.

Sheikh Hasina described Begum Rokeya's role in awakening the women as unlimited and said this great lady had rightly perceived the truth—if a woman is educated, a family and even the whole nation will become educated.