

Education base of all national development

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday called for devoting all energies to achieve progress in the fields of education, science and technology to attain self-reliance by the coming century, reports BSS.

She said her government had attached top priority to education, one of the basic rights recognised in the constitution keeping in mind the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Inaugurating the Education Week 1992 at Shilpakala Academy premises Begum Zia said "we want to bring momentum in the development activities and build up a skilled manpower. Alleviation of poverty is our immediate target and we need

necessary technology for development. Education is the base of all these targets."

The function was also addressed by Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Education Mohammad Yunus Khan and Education Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

Begum Zia said "we are at the door step of a new century. We want to emerge as a self-reliant nation by the next century which is possible through the development of the education sector."

CONGENIAL ACADEMIC ATMOSPHERE

The Prime Minister gave a relation call to all irrespective of party affiliation or opinion to

help maintain congenial academic atmosphere in the educational arena for the greater interest of the nation. She said the prevailing problems in the education sector could not be solved only through taking up programmes, making policy allocating increased budget or establishing new educational institutions. "What we need most today is the proper atmosphere conducive to the educational institutions," she said.

Begum Zia said education and terrorism could not go in parallel. The nation is incurring irreparable losses because of continuous terrorism in the campuses, she said, adding "the students are our future. We cannot keep our future

and vocational education because she said, "we need the grooming up of merit for the innovation of appropriate technology for the faster development of the country."

With this aim in view the government had established an open university and would soon start national university programme she said adding permission had been given to establish university at the private sector and the non-formal education programme would start from the current year.

The Prime Minister expressed her firm belief that the steps would generate positive momentum in the expansion of education.

The Prime Minister said the nation had high hopes in the teachers. She said the government was active to ensure overall welfare of the teachers so that they could devote themselves more sincerely in building the nation.

The Prime Minister said the government had solved the long-standing promotion problem of the teachers and increased their salary

19-PT PROGRAMME

Begum Zia said Shaheed President Zia had realised the significance of education and made its expansion as one of the points in his historic 19-point programme. He initiated the universal primary education and introduced the mass education programme in 1980 she said. But, she pointed out that the autocratic rule which did not want the expansion of education discarded the programme which resulted in the present backwardness in the education sector. The Prime Minister said we want to change this situation.

Begum Khaleda Zia congratulated the teachers who had been awarded on the occasion of the Education Week and said it was a national recognition of their merit and efficiency.

The Education Minister gave a clarion call for the involvement of people at all levels to make the government programmes for the expansion of the primary education and female education successful.

Education

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hostage in the hands of terrorism."

EXPANSION OF PRY EDN

The Prime Minister said the present government had identified expansion of primary education and female education as the cornerstones in its education policy.

She said her government had introduced compulsory primary education from last January in 54 thanas at the initial stage. All the areas of the country would come under the programme in phases by 1995, she added.

Begum Zia said 60 to 75 per cent of the children had got the opportunity to be enrolled in the schools but two third of these children dropped out of the school before they were promoted to class five which was a great problem.

Because of the problem the Prime Minister said the government had constituted the implementation committees with public representatives at union, thana and zila levels and government officials to make the compulsory primary education programme a success.

MORE EDN INSTTS

Stressing the need for more educational institutions the Prime Minister called for individual and institutional entrepreneurship in the private sector to supplement the government initiative for establishing more educational institutions.

Quoting an Arabic proverb the Prime Minister said "Educating a female means educating a family." She said a country is a conglomeration of families so making the woman community educated means making the nation educated.

Begum Zia said education had been made free for the girls upto class eight in the rural areas and sixty per cent jobs of the primary school teachers had been earmarked for women to encourage them in the education.

The Prime Minister said along with primary and female education her government was giving emphasis on advanced technical