

Teachers urged to play stronger role

Establish accountability in edn sector: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday underscored establishment of accountability in the education sector to improve its quality and standard, reports UNB.

"Like all other spheres of national life, accountability has to be established in the education sector as well. And only then, we'll be able to achieve our desired goal," she said inaugurating a day-long Grand National Conference of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA).

With the restoration of democracy in the country, a larger responsibility was vested in the teachers, Begum Zia said urging them to play a stronger role for the sake of democracy and education.

The Prime Minister said the present government had put emphasis on science and technology and intended to initiate a productive and self-employment-oriented education system.

"We want an education system which will be independent and suitable for a democratic society," she told the college teachers.

Education is the parameter of development and progress, she said, reminding that the government has attached top priority to education. She mentioned different steps, including compulsory primary education, free education upto class eight for girls in rural areas, mass education, opening of new medical colleges and setting up of open and private universities.

Begum Zia reaffirmed her government's pledge to eradicate terrorism from the campus and said pragmatic steps had been taken to remove session-jam.

She accused the past autocratic regime of destroying country's

education system. Terrorism was introduced in the educational arena in a planned way during the nine years of autocracy.

The Prime Minister called upon the teachers to take the responsibility of maintaining congenial academic atmosphere in their respective institutions.

The Prime Minister expressed happiness to find the teachers alongside the nationalist forces in the present march towards progress in the autocracy-free Bangladesh.

She termed the teachers conscience of the nation, architects of society and the standard-bearers of civilisation and assured that the present Government was sincere in ensuring welfare of the teaching community.

Begum Zia recalled the steps taken by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for the welfare of the teachers which included national pay scale for them and service rule. She also mentioned the interim education policy adopted at his initiative in 1978 for upgrading the standard of

education.

A high-power committee has been formed to sort out the problems of private teachers, she said, adding steps will be taken according to its recommendations.

The Prime Minister said the conference, the main theme of which is "Education for National Development," carried a great significance. The teachers have to evaluate their achievements and shortcomings.

Pointing to the low rate of education, the Prime Minister called for being more enthusiastic in acquiring knowledge and technology suiting the ensuing new century.

Chaired by BCTA President Principal AKM Shahidullah, the inaugural session of the conference was also addressed by Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, Dr. Moin Khan, MP, Maj (Retd) Quamrul Islam, Chairman of

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the Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Associations Sheikh Amanullah and BCTA General Secretary Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmad.

Representatives of almost all the 664 colleges under the purview of the association attended the conference's inaugural session, followed by a seminar.

Leaders of the teachers at the function voiced strongly for formulation of a national education policy.