

Uphold democratic values through patience, tolerance: Khaleda

Terrorism must be uprooted

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made a fervent appeal on Thursday to set up an impregnable example of upholding democratic values through patience, tolerance and respect for other's views.

With a motherly touch in her voice she said, "in democracy there will be difference of opinion and ideology. There will be debate but no enmity. There should be no clash, no terrorism. Let us all culture this

attitude."

The Prime Minister was addressing as the chief guest a gathering of teachers and students at the Dhaka University TSC auditorium on the occasion of the Medal Distribution Ceremony 1992, Thursday morning. A separate pandal was erected outside the main auditorium to accommodate the audience. Those in the pandal observed the function and heard the Prime Minister through close circuit television.

The function was attended, among others, by Ministers, MPs, diplomats and other dignitaries.

CONSENSUS ON EDN

Underscoring the need for a national consensus on education which is a national issue, the Prime Minister said the future of democracy largely depended on education and it was for the greater interest of education and democracy that terrorism must be eliminated.

"Country's future leadership comes from the university. We cannot allow our future to be captive in the hands of terrorism. We must uproot the poisonous tree of terrorism. Sincere efforts and cooperation of all concerned are necessary for it," she said.

The Prime Minister underlined the need for ensuring accountability in the education sector, especially in the higher education. Transparency and accountability are indispensable at every level of the democratic system, she said.

Teachers and students gave a standing ovation to the Prime Minister as she entered the TSC auditorium in her formal ceremonial gown leading the procession of the recipients of the medals. The procession was also participated by the Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor and deans of different faculties.

Earlier when the motorcade of the Prime Minister entered the campus area, the university students standing both sides of the road chanted welcome slogans. This was the first programme to be participated by Begum Khaleda Zia in the university after she became the head of the government.

FIRST HEAD OF GOVT

In fact, Begum Zia was the first head of the government to visit the university in 14 years. She visited the university on September 19, 1978. Our President Ershad visited vacant SM Hall in 1987 when the university was closed. Heavy security measures

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributing medals to the teachers and students of Dhaka University for their outstanding contributions and performances in education and research at TSC on Thursday.