



# Primary edn stipend project opens PM for nat'l consensus on banning student politics

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday hinted again at a national consensus on banning student politics to free the troubled public universities from violence. She substantiated her contention referring to creating turbulence "purposefully" to close down the state universities run with the taxpayers' money that give higher education to meritorious students of the poor. Under a blueprint, institutions where education are being shut.

The nation's road to future and flourishing of merit are being impeded," the Premier lamented and called upon the conscious, patriotic citizens to ponder with "cool head" over the campus situation that affected the poor more than the rich. Begum Zia obliquely reiterated her call for greater political decision on moratorium on future student politics while inaugurating the Stipend Programme for Primary Education under the Primary (See Page 15 Col. 2).

## Primary edn stipend

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and Mass Education Division at a function at International Conference Centre.

She compared the stipend programme for the destitute children as something very similar to the subsidies given to the public universities, and further warned that the government would not tolerate any negligence and corruption with the distribution of its money. "This arrangement for educating the poor at the cost of hard-earned money of the poor country's citizens must be made a success," she resolutely said.

However, the Prime Minister initiated the proposal for banning student politics to wipe out terrorism from campus after the BNP-led four-party alliance assumed power through a landslide victory in the last year's general elections.

Also the Chairperson of ruling BNP, Begum Zia later toned-down her position on student politics issue and reactivated the committees of her suspended student wing. But she has not yet dropped the idea of getting rid of campus violence by means of restricting the party-affiliated student politics.

The Prime Minister on Saturday mentioned that the affluent families did afford to send their children abroad or to private universities for availing of higher education. The public universities, where the descendants of the underprivileged people study, are being closed in a deliberate manner, she pointed her finger at the violent politics by vested quarters.

About the stipends for education programme, she directed the officials and teachers to cover all beneficiaries including the people

in the remote villages, erosion-hit areas, coastal belt, hilly regions, slums of the cities as well as gypsies and bedu community people.

Begum Zia admitted that despite huge enrolment, the quality of education was still lagging behind and it must be improved within the shortest possible time.

Under the Taka 663-crore programme, each family having one primary school-going child draws Taka 100 per month and a family of two gets Taka 125 a month. Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, Krishi Bank and Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank (RAKUB) have been assigned to disburse the money among the beneficiaries numbering around 55 lakh.

Presided over by the Prime Minister's Primary and Mass Education Affairs Advisor Prof Jahanara Begum, the function was addressed by Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division Prof Dr Tahmina Hossain and Director General of the division AM Mosaddekul Islam.