



# Khaleda warns trouble makers on campus

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday said those engaged in acts of destroying the genius and merits of our students through instigation to create chaos in the educational institutions, specially the highest seats of learning, in fact, do not want Bangladesh to remain independent and sovereign, reports BSS.

She warned that her government cannot and would not allow the present and the future of our students to become bleak in today's world of competition and globalization of the 21st century.

Addressing a group of eminent personalities in the fields of engineering profession and education who met the Prime Minister at her office, Begum Zia said her government would not hesitate to take stern action against those creating trouble in the greater national interest as it has got people's mandate.

The Prime Minister said the trial of the killers of BUET student Sony would certainly be held.

She expressed her government's determination to maintain congenial academic atmosphere in the educational institutions and sought cooperation of all in this regard.

She said a committee would be formed to examine the possibility of floating tenders

Those who met the Prime Minister informed her that BUET situation was engineered by outside instigation which has further compounded the atmosphere.

The Prime Minister said educational institutions would run in accordance with their respective rules, regulations and system, upholding their traditions, and assured that there would be no interference from the government in this regard. The government would rather extend full cooperation to the educational institutions

as it attaches top-most priority to this sector and had made the highest budgetary allocation for it.

Minister for Water Resources Engr. L.K. Siddiqui, Lt. Gen.(Retd) Mahbubur Rahman MP, Engr. Q.I Siddique, President, IEB, Prof. Iqbal Mahmud, Professor Emeritus and former Vice Chancellor of BUET, former Vice Chancellor of BUET and present VC of Ahsanullah University of Engineering and Technology Dr. MH Khan, Major (See Page 15 Col. 2)

## PM warns

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Gen.(ret'd) MA Kader, former engineer in chief of Bangladesh Army, Dr. MAK Azad, vice president, IEB, Prof. MA Hannan, Rector, Engineering Staff College, VC of BUET Dr Ali Murtaza, Matin Chowdhury, former chief architect, Mahmudur Rahman, Executive Chairman of BOI, and former secretary Engr Al- Hus-sainy were in the group who met the Prime Minister.

PM's Political Secretary Haris Chowdhury and PM's Principal Secretary Dr. Kamal Siddique were also present.

The Prime Minister said doctors and engineers were in high demand abroad adding they are also wanted in the country. As such, she said, the government has turned four Bangladesh Institutes of Technology (BIT) into universities and new medical colleges were being set up. She said the private sector is also encouraged to establish medical colleges.

The world has witnessed tremendous development in science and technology on one hand and stiff competition of globalization of the 21st century is there on the other. "If we have to survive in this competition, we have to equip ourselves accordingly," she said while underscoring the need for regular training for skill development keeping an eye on quality of education.

BNP, she said, has always been attaching importance to education, specially Information Technology and Information Communication. This time the education sector has been given more importance as we have to make all-out efforts to survive in today's world of competition.

She said the country should

make the best use of time and available opportunities. The conscious section of society, particularly teachers and guardians, have to come forward so that our student community devote themselves to studies to prepare themselves to face the challenges of this millennium.

Stressing the need for regular training for quality education, she said we have to find employment for the professionals at home and abroad. In this context, she listed a number of steps taken by her government for creating opportunities for students and teachers. She recalled infrastructure development of educational institutions, training facilities for teachers and introduction of stipends for students.

She said the government has been taking all possible steps so that our students could get to know the functioning of Bangabhaban, Jatiya Sangsad and Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The government has instructed different institutions to create part time jobs during vacations for students.

Responding to the points raised by the engineers, she said she would ask the concerned authority for filling up vacant posts of engineers if there are specific proposals.

Earlier, the experts raised the point of further expansion of professional training and human resource development in the field of engineering while congratulating her for upgrading the BITs. They said the professional registration board has begun its activities. Registration was essential for seeking employment abroad IEB.