

Restore academic atmosphere, PM urges VCs

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday urged the Vice Chancellors of different universities in the country to help restore congenial academic atmosphere and brighten the country's image abroad, says BSS.

Addressing the Vice Chancellors and members of the teaching community of different Universities at her office, Begum Zia said during the last few years the image of the country suffered badly due to anarchy in the educational institutions.

The Prime Minister said, "I don't want to read any news which says students are involved in adopting unfair means, extortion or kidnapping people for ransom."

Seeking cooperation of all including that of the Vice Chancellors, she said, "Despite resource constraints we will provide you all cooperation. Our pledge towards education and future of the

country is very clear and I need your cooperation to implement those."

In this context, the Prime Minister said her government attaches top priority to education saying cash support is provided for children at primary level and female education up to HSC level has been made free.

Begum Zia urged the Vice Chancellors to provide quality education to the students so that students from neighboring countries are attracted to our universities. She said scope of higher education in Europe and America has been reduced following the September 11 incident.

The Prime Minister said we want restoration of congenial academic atmosphere not only in the universities but also in all other educational institutions. She urged the Vice Chancellors to tackle

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PM urges VCs

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adoption of unfair means in examinations with an iron hand so that the image suffered during the past AL rule is restored soon.

Begum Zia said "We are not in favour of doing politics with education as the future of the country depends on it."

Expressing her confidence the Prime Minister said, "I hope with people's cooperation you will be able to restore the lost glory and image of the country's universities."

Begum Zia urged them to work with sincerity, commitment and devotion assuring her government's co-operation. She was very happy at the free and frank discussions with the vice chancellors but she expressed her regret to learn about the incidents of various irregularities, anarchy and indiscipline in the universities during the last five years.

The senior teachers also drew her attention to moral degradation in some cases and the anarchic situation which was prevailing in the country's universities.

They urged the Prime Minister for the formation of a high level inquiry committee to investigate the irregularities in the universities during the last five years and identify those responsible.

Prof Abdul Halim Khan, Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Krishi University said that the past government had declared IPSA as a university without developing the necessary infrastructure.

They informed the Prime Minister that during the last five years recruitment were made without judging qualification and experience. They said appointments were given mostly on political considerations leading to financial difficulties and a severe anarchy in

the campuses.

During the meeting Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruq, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon and Prime Minister's Political Secretary Haris Chowdhury were present.

The vice chancellors who paid the courtesy call were Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof Faisal Islam Faruqui, Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University, Prof Nur Uddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of BUET, AJS Nur Uddin Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Jahangir Nagar University, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Islamic University, Prof A Aziz, acting Vice Chancellor of Shahjalal Science and Technology University, Prof M A Kader Bhuiyan, Vice Chancellor of Khulna University, Prof A Momin Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of National University, Dr R I Sharif, acting VC of Bangladesh Open University and A Halim Khan, VC of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Krishi University.