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PM declares Jagannath College as university

Keep vigilance on campus for congenial atmosphere

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday declared century-old Jagannath College of Dhaka as a fullfledged university, reposts BSS.

Amid unprecedented enthusiasm, cheers and repeated clappings of thousands of teachers, students, guardians and employees of the college, Begum Zia made this declaration at a huge rousing reception accorded to her at the college in Dhaka Thursday afternoon.

With this announcement, the entire area including the campus witnessed waves of joy and merriment. The non-stop clappings and applause of thousands of students turned the festive-looking campus and its surroundings into an unprecedented environment of delight.

Announcing her declaration to make the college an university, she said amidst applause,

"I hope that this age-old seat of education from now will be developed as a university of rich tradition. With the upgradation as a new university, the responsibility of this institution has also been raised. Peace in its campus has to be maintained always. Session-jam can't be allowed in this new university", she advised the students, teachers, employees and guardians to develop Jagannath University in that way.

The Prime Minister said that a nice and proper climate has to be maintained in each educational institution of the country for the best interest of the future of the self, parents and the nation.

She called upon all to be alert so that no educational institution faces stoppages of its classes even for a day.

Begum Zia mentioned the holding of convocation ceremonies in different universities in recent years and said that it was a matter of pride for the students to receive certificates of various degrees in colourful convocation ceremonies.

She, however, regretted that some of the universities were yet to hold convocation ceremonies and emphasised the need for arranging convoca-

tions regularly.

Referring to the long nine-year anti-autocracy movement, she said, it was necessary at that time to oust the undemocratic, corrupt regime.

"But, now there is a democratic government elected by the people at the helm of affairs. There is no need for movements now. Bangladesh cannot afford that luxury to waste even a day in any movement. It is high time to spread education and build the nation," she said and sought the cooperation of all in implementing the massive programme initiated by the present democratic government for spreading education and building the nation.

she said that the nation cannot remain poor all lifelong and Insha Allah we will end poverty.

The autocracy, she regretted, had not only ruined the national economy but also destroyed the country's education system.

"Education, she said, is such a resource which no one can snatch away and education removes all darkness along the vision of the human beings and shows the light at the end of the tunnel.

Begum Zia said that her government wanted to remove all darkness and help the nation to reach the end of the tunnel fast where there was light.

She said that was why her government had launched epoch-making massive education programmes including compulsory

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free primary education, tuition free education up to class ten for girls as well as stipend for them and food for education for the poor.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the setting up of new universities, medical colleges and educational institutions across the country alongwith provision of expanded facilities for the students and welfare measures including pension for the teachers.

She said that her government attached the highest priority on the education sector and was now getting the salutary effects of those policies and measures by the way of enhanced rate of literacy in the country.

She mentioned that rate of literacy now stood at 38 per cent compared to only 26 per

cent in 1990, an increase of 12 per cent literacy in four years and a half.

She also hoped that no one in the country would remain illiterate by the year 2000.

The Prime Minister recalled the contributions of the Jagannath College in the anti-autocracy movement and assured it of all support and help.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain, DUCSU Vice-President Amanullah Aman MP, College Principal Prof Mohammad Junayed, Vice Principal (day) Prof Zahurul Islam and Teachers Council General Secretary Prof M. A. Latif also spoke.

Later, Begum Zia unveiled the plaque of the Jagannath University.

Earlier, on her arrival at the college, established in 1884, the Prime Minister was warmly welcomed by thousands of cheering students, teachers, employees and guardians. She also took salute of the National Cadet Corps.