

DU, NU teachers meet Khaleda

Some parties trying to drag nation into darkness

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here Thursday that a section of political parties was trying to drag the country into darkness by giving hartal and strike calls mainly to keep the people away from development activities, reports BSS.

"As the opposition political parties have failed to involve the people in their policies, they are now trying to keep them away from the development activities," the Prime Minister said this while talking to senior teachers of Dhaka University and National University at her Hare Road office.

The Prime Minister said strike and hartal were serious

blows to the national economy. These destructive activities create serious impediment in foreign investment, a pre-condition for achieving prosperity.

The Prime Minister said the government of BNP always preferred solution through discussion but they wanted to halt development by resorting to destructive activities.

Begum Zia said, We have switched over to parliamentary system by amending the Constitution unitedly. But it was unfortunate when somebody in parliament said the government of BNP would not be allowed to rule the country in peace," she said posing a question, "How can a democratic government carry on

progress without peace and stability?"

The Prime Minister expressed her government's firm determination to run the country constitutionally.

Begum Zia also discussed the problems being faced by the teachers of the universities and present political situation during the meeting.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandoker Mosharras Hossain, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar also spoke on the occasion while Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) VP Amanullah Aman MP was present.

The teachers who spoke on the occasion included Prof. Afsaruddin, Prof Yunus Haider, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Sirajul Islam Khan, Prof Aftab Uddin, Prof Ershadul Bari, Prof Tahmina Begum, Prof Azizur Rahman, Prof Shahida Rafique, Prof Mosleh Uddin and Prof Khalilur Rahman.

While speaking on the occasion Prof Yusuf Haider said hartal is a democratic right but it was also his right to go to the laboratory. "My basic rights will be violated if somebody exert pressure on me in this re-

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gard," he said. Prof Sirajul Islam Khan said Bangladesh was no more a case of bottomless basket rather the country's economy was now strong under the leadership of Begum Zia. He mentioned that the banking sector was now in very good condition. The condition in Dhaka University had improved a lot, he said.

Prof Afsaruddin said, the democratic values, nationalism and rule of law will be established if the programmes given by the BNP government were implemented fully.

Prof Aftabuddin Ahmed said those who did not like to see the country become self-reliant were now in pain as the country now could contribute 40 per cent to country's budget from domestic resources mobilisations.

The Prime Minister assured

the teachers that all possible steps would be taken to meet their demands including housing facilities and scholarships.

STUDENTS

Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday expressed her confidence that the target of giving education to all by the year 2000 would be achieved if the present trend of progress in the education sector continued.

"The facilities for education have been expanded and the rate of literacy is increasing fast. Inshallah, we will be able to impart education to all by the year 2000 if this trend continues," Begum Zia said at a state level reception given to a group of meritorious students in Osmany Memorial Auditorium.

The reception was given to 495 students including 137 girl students who secured positions in the merit lists of the Secondary Schools Certificate and Dakhil examinations held under the four education boards and Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board in 1995.

The reception was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Education Secretary Ershadul Huq.

The Prime Minister hoped that the search for righteousness, truth and beauty should be the motto of life of the students.

Begum Zia said that national progress was not possible without development in the fields of education and science.

Begum Zia said, "though we have resource constraints, we have vast population. We have to work together to turn this vast population into human resources and to attain this goal there is no alternative to education."

In this context the Prime Minister laid stress on imparting vocational training in a broader way.

She reminded all quarters that peace in educational institutions and regular study were necessary for attaining the target of education. We must be conscious that the academic pursuits of the students are not hampered even for a day.