



Prime Minister and Chancellor of Chittagong University Sheikh Hasina giving away certificate at the second convocation of the university held on Saturday on the campus.

Opposition urged to reciprocate AL will never use students in party interest: Hasina

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13:— Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday unequivocally declared she or her party would never use the students in petty party interest and urged the Opposition to reciprocate her overture, reports UNB.

"The student community has long been used to serve party and narrow political interests," she said urging all other political parties to sincerely come up supporting the initiative as a measure to cleanse educational institutions of violence.

"We never used the student community for political purposes and will never do so," she said addressing the second convocation of Chittagong University as Chancellor of the Varsity.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, as president of the ceremony, formally inaugurated the convocation programme immediately after ascending the podium, leading to a convocation parade.

Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties, Education Minister ASHK Sadique and renowned academic Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui joined the parade wearing formal convocation robes.

Shortly after the opening, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over diplomas to six scholars who obtained Ph.D and

M.Phil degrees from the University.

The Ph.D holders are Sourendranath Biswas (1988), Shipra Rakshit Dastider (1989), Gazi Salehuddin (1994), Sheikh Sirajul Islam (1995) and Abul Fazay Muhammad Aminul Haq (1998) while Md Nazrul Haq Chowdhury got M.Phil in 1994.

The Prime Minister also conducted other convocation ceremonies conferring diplomas on the MA, M.Com, MSS, MSC, BA (Hons), BSS (Hons), BCM (Hons), BBA (Hons), BSC

(Hons), MBBS, BA (Pass), BSS (Pass), BSC (Pass), LLB, B.Ed, BFA (Pass), DA, DCH, DCO, and DGO degree holders under the university.

The Prime Minister in her presidential speech told the function that any solitary effort is far too inadequate to do the onerous task of freeing the university campuses from terrorism.

"We seek everybody's support and cooperation in our honest effort," she said, adding: "There are some quarters still trying to

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Referring to the atmosphere in the educational institutions, the Prime Minister said it is a matter of distress that in the past campus atmosphere had been vitiated time and again.

"Many meritorious youths were killed and many teachers roughed up by the terrorists. We are taking stern action against the terrorists and we will do so as we are determined to change the situation."

Referring to a month-long siege laid to the residence of the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, one of the institutions worst affected by campus unrest, in 1991, Sheikh Hasina said: "It is unfortunate that the then government did not help the captive Vice-Chancellor rather indirectly backed the terrorists."

"The then Education Minister who is now Deputy Leader of the Opposition came to Chittagong at that time. He did not take any step to free the VC. Rather, we took the issue to Parliament."

Alerting all against any such situation in future, the Prime

Pointing to the challenges of the upcoming new millennium, 21st century, Prime Minister Hasina said the government had completed formulation of a new Education Policy focused on science and technology.

"The education policy will be placed before the cabinet soon," she informed the meet, adding that the new policy was drafted in light of the Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission report.

She said that the government was committed for the development of science and technology to meet the demand of the new century.

"To meet the demand the government has taken steps to establish 12 Science and Technology Universities across the country."

Sheikh Hasina said her government was resolute to bring about a radical change in university and college education because only one per cent of the total population can find entry into higher secondary levels.

Professionals like teachers, doctors, researchers, lawyers, engineers and managers are pooled from this segment of the population.