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Govt high school to be set up at each upazila: PM

Textbooks to be printed at district level

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina announced that textbooks will now be printed at district level and distributed among the students by local authorities, as the present book-supply procedure creates perennial problems.

Under another major step in the education sector, government high schools will be established in every upazila of the country and quality education will be ensured in these schools.

The PM disclosed the plans when a six-member delegation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) led by its Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam called on her at the PM's Office yesterday morning.

Hasina expressed disappointments over the degrading standard of education from primary to university level.

"The fall of the standard of education is alarming," she told the executives of the UGC.

About the book publication affairs Hasina further observed that many students have to suffer for delays in

receiving textbooks as all books are printed centrally in the capital city.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the newsmen after the meeting, explaining the new measures being taken to resolve the problems in the education sector.

Azad said the CDs of the books will be sent to the district authorities and the textbooks will be printed at a time to rid the students of long wait for textbooks while time of the academic year passes by.

The premier said the quality of education at the university level fell to an alarming level as permission was given to set up many private universities without maintaining proper rules and regulations during the last BNP-led four-party alliance government.

She emphatically said her government would not compromise anyway on the question of restoring the lost standards of education in the universities as the government attaches the highest priority to the education sector.

The PM informed the UGC delegation that the authori-

ties concerned are working to update the existing education policy in line with modern science and technology.

Hasina also felt that country's educational institutions are suffering from a lack of qualified and well-trained teachers. "Scarcity of well-trained teachers will be removed," she assured.

The UGC chairman apprised the PM of the overall situation of private and public universities of the country and demanded government steps to give the UGC more freedom for conducting its activities smoothly.

The premier assured the UGC members of government's earnestness in solving every problem facing the UGC in conducting its activities effectively for the sake of educational development.

As the role of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in spreading education came up during the discussion, Hasina deplored that some 300 students of various levels who depend on financial assistance of Bangabandhu Memorial Trust had to stop their studies as the immediate past caretaker govern-

ment seized the trust's bank account.

She said these dropout students will be brought in the sphere of education again by the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust which bears education expenditures of some 1,000 poor and physically challenged students of various levels.

The UGC chairman gave special thanks to the prime minister as her government has decided to set up Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur to give a boost to the educational arena in the backwater northern region of the country.

Prof Nazrul presented the PM a set of books, including 'Education in Science and Education in Bangladesh' published by the UGC.

The UGC chairman also expressed deep shock at the death of noted nuclear scientist and prime minister's husband Dr MA Wazed Miah and prayed for salvation of his departed soul.

Adviser to the PM for Education, Social Development and Political Affairs Dr Alauddin Ahmed and PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman were present.