

EDUCATION UP TO DEGREE LEVEL FREE

Reduce backbreaking volume of school syllabuses

PM tells National Primary Edn Week inaugural ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked for reducing the backbreaking volume of school syllabuses and enhancing the standard of textbooks contents to ensure easy but effective quality education for students.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the National Primary Education Week'2009 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, she directed the authorities concerned to think out how the syllabi could be downsized and the quality upgraded.

This year, the Primary Education Week is being observed with the slogan 'Din Badaler Boichhe Hawa, Shikkhai Amar Prothom Chawa' reflecting the government's focus on building a well-educated population as an effective instrument of all-round change in society.

Hasina also declared that her government would make education up to degree level free to facilitate poor sections of people to achieve higher education.

"Only big-sized syllabus and numbers of books do not ensure good education for kids. They need interesting and effective contents. By giving many books, we cannot expect children will be all pun-dits," she told the gathering of educationists.

Hasina directed the minister and the state minister for primary and mass

education not to do office in Dhaka only but also to go for field visit across Bangladesh to know about the real picture of the schools, teachers and students.

The PM said allocation to the education sector will be increased next time.

"We all say education is the backbone of a nation. But in our society, education and teachers are neglected. Such a situation must end," she said.

The prime minister directed authorities concerned to increase quality of books in terms of both content and paper. "We want to see students happy with their textbooks," she said.

Hasina expressed satisfaction over arrangement of class-five terminal examination, saying that such exams will remove discrimination among the students and increase competition of talents among themselves.

She sought cooperation of all in achieving its target for cent percent literacy rate by year 2014.

She said a process is underway to appoint 22,315 new teachers while some 1,000 headmasters are going to be appointed this month.

"Every school of the country is suffering from lack of adequate number of teachers. If we want to increase quality of primary education, adequate teachers must be appointed," she said.

Hasina also laid emphasis on imparting modern training to the teachers for

increasing teaching quality.

"By beating or scolding, you cannot teach someone. The students have to be allowed to pursue their studies with joy and entertainment," she said, stressing the need for a change.

Later, the prime minister distributed certificates and crests among the winners of various cultural completions held among the primary students on the occasion of the education week' 2009.

Various schools and their teachers and members of managing committees also received awards from her for their outstanding results, performances and hard work.

Sadia Shikder of Monohordi Model Primary School in Narsingdi, Dipannita Tithi of Arpara Shibnagar Model Primary School in Jhenidah, and Hasin Tanvir of RK Primary School in Tangail, were given the best three awards for their outstanding results in the maiden primary terminal education' 2009.

With Minister for Primary and Mass Education Dr Afsarul Amin in the chair, the opening function was also addressed by State Minister Md. Motahar Hossain, acting secretary of the ministry Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan and Primary Education Department Director General Shyamal Kanti Ghosh.

The opening session was followed by a spectacular cultural function presented by primary students and teachers.