

## Registered primary schools to be nationalised: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government had agreed in principle to nationalise all registered primary schools of the country in three phases.

She said she had directed the authorities concerned to frame a policy for the nationalisation of registered non-government primary schools for further development of the country's primary education.

There are some 22,961 non-government registered primary schools across the country with 90,000 teachers and 41 lakh students.

The announcement came at a meeting with a delegation of Bangladesh Non-Government Primary Teachers Unity Council at her office.

The PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said the government would not allow setting up of any primary school without its permission.

Mentioning that primary education is the base of all education, the premier stressed the need for further strengthening this basic education.

She mentioned that the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had nationalised primary schools immediately after the country's independence.

The government attaches top priority to education with the highest budgetary allocation as the desired development is not possible without it, she added.

She highlighted various steps taken by the government, including a time-befitting education policy, for the development of education in the country.

In the new education policy, primary education was extended to up to class eight to keep pace with the modern world, she said.

Hasina said the introduction of exams like primary terminal, Junior School Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate has removed the fear surrounding board exams from the minds of the students and increased the pass rate tremendously.

Referring to the excellent results of this year's Secondary School Certificate exam, Hasina hoped that the pass percentage would gradually increase to cent percent in the future.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Afsarul Ameen and State Minister M Motahar Hossain, Awami League Presidium Member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, PM's Private Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and the council Adviser Munsur Ali, Chairman Aminul Islam, Co-chairman Abdus Salam Mia, Member Secretary Abdur Rahman Bacchu and Member Secretary Mahbub Alam also spoke on the occasion.

**Prime Minister  
Sheikh Hasina asked  
the authorities  
concerned to frame a  
policy for the  
nationalisation of  
registered non-  
government primary  
schools**