



To ensure academic atmosphere

PM hints at banning student politics on campus

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Monday told Parliament that student politics would be banned, if necessary, in consultation with all political parties to restore academic atmosphere in the campus, reports UNB.

Khaleda said a bill for women reserved seat will be placed in the next session for restoring women's representation in Parliament.

"If necessary student politics will be stopped in consultation with all MPs and different sections of the people," Khaleda said pointing to culture of arms, violence and hall occupation prevalent in student politics.

Speaking on the motion to thank the former President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, for his inaugural speech in Parliament, the Prime Minister said she has already suspended the activities of CD central committee following complaints against her party's student wing.

The Prime Minister urged the main Opposition, Awami League, to join Parliament leaving the path of agitation. At the same she issued a note of warning that chaos and anarchy would not be tolerated any more.

Her government in 1991-96 had showed tolerance to the Opposition. This time also it will maintain the same, but not with regard to chaos and anarchy, added the Prime Minister.

"None, from top to bottom, will be spared if indulged in chaos and anarchy," she cautioned.

Accusing Awami League for destroying the country in a planned way during its five-year rule, Khaleda urged the Opposition to take advantage of serving the people working together with the government.

Begum Zia assured the Opposition of providing every scope to discuss in Parliament all issues vexing their mind to make the House effective.

Responding to criticism of Begum Rawshan Ershad (JP), the Prime Minister said 60-member Council of Ministers would not cost much the exchequer. It is

natural in a coalition government.

She laid emphasis on checking corruption saying the country will make genuine progress if plundering of crores of Taka can be checked.

In a veiled reference to high level corruption during the Ershad regime, the Prime Minister said government leaders were jailed and forbidden to contest the election for corruption.

Issuing a stern warning the Prime Minister said none would be spared if he indulge in chaos, terrorism or extortion. Even if he belonged to the ruling party

would be brought to book and punished.

She assured the House of advancing the nation towards progress if public money and wealth are saved from the black hands of corrupt elements and plunderers.

Employment will be generated in different sectors including police, BDR, Ansar to absorb young people.

Pointing to Sunday's hartal, Begum Zia was critical of Awami League. The President of this party, she said, had pledged to the nation to refraining from calling

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hartal even if she (Hasina) is in Opposition. Awami League called hartal breaking its promise and without having any issue.

"They have betrayed the nation for the third time by calling hartal and by breaking its promise without any reason," she added.

Tracing the past Begum Zia said Awami League first betrayed the nation in 1986 by taking part in election. Without naming the Awami League chief, she said Hasina had said anyone took part in the polls would be branded as traitor.

Second, the election pledges Awami League made to the nation in 1996 had not been implemented, she reminded the nation.

Refuting the claim of the previous government the Prime Minister said Awami League left the nationalised banks virtually bankrupt. The government's loan from the banking sector mounted to Tk 38,000 crore during the 5-year Awami League rule as against Tk 24,000 crore in previous 24 years.

Awami League has shattered the country's economy during its rule and failed to make headway in development.