



PM reiterates commitment to reach light of edn to every home

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday iterated her government's firm commitment to reach the light of education in every homestead within the shortest possible time for removing all kinds of darkness, reports BSS.

"I am urging all concerned to rise above party affiliations and differences to turn the ongoing education activities into a social movement for the expansion and development of primary education," Begum Zia made the call at the concluding ceremony and award giving function of primary education week.

Advising the school-going children to avail the facilities being offered by her government, the Prime Minister asked them to go to schools regularly and take lesson properly by staying full time in schools.

Begum Zia sought cooperation of all concerned to attain the goals of reaching the light of education to every homes.

During her speech, the Prime Minister touched on a host of education-related issues, including creation of mass consciousness about primary education and improvement of its quality, mass education programmes, measures taken for the improvement of primary education and timely distribution of text books among the students.

Held at the Osmany Memorial Smriti Auditorium, the function was addressed also by Prime Minister's Advisor on Primary and Mass Education Prof. Jahanara Begum, Secretary to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Division Prof. Tahmina Hossain and Director General of Primary and Mass Education Department A M Mosaddekul Islam.

The Prime Minister distributed awards among winners of competitions on different events organised on the occasion of National Primary Education Week. The children of different educational institutions received awards for their performance in recitation, song, speech, acting, painting and dance.

The Prime Minister said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had first introduced universal education programme and countrywide mass education programme to implement the constitutional obligation of ensuring education for all.

Begum Zia said the BNP government created the Department of Primary Education in 1981 and Primary and Mass Education Division in 1992 for overall development and expansion of primary education and strengthening of its infrastructures.

The Prime Minister she is directly in charge of the primary and mass education division to attach utmost importance on primary education.

Begum Zia gave a brief resume of the steps undertaken by the past BNP governments for the development of education. She said after assumption of power this time her government has taken two epoch-making decisions in the field of education. One is introduction of countrywide stipend for primary education to the increased number of poor students and the second is the free education and stipend for female students and also proving them stipend upto higher secondary level, she added.

The Prime Minister said the government will provide Taka 663 crore every year from its own fund for stipend project, which

will help open the door of primary education for all. Under the project, she said, about 55 lakh children in 65 thousand primary schools will be benefited.

Referring to the government's allocation of Taka 6,710 crore for education sector in the current budget, Begum Zia said her government has always laid importance on education sector.

She said her government succeeded in reaching text books to the learners at the primary schools in January this year. Text books, she said, did not reach on to the students on time during the past government.