

Daily ✓



PHOTO: PIB

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the prize distribution ceremony of the National Education Week-2002 held at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

PM for time-befitting education system

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the present education system should be modernised to suit the need of the hour.

She also underscored the need for ensuring corruption-free education and congenial academic atmosphere. She said corruption hampers the standard of education and creates the scope for terrorism.

"We have to be strict against corruption in education," she said seeking cooperation of teachers, students, guardians and all conscious citizens to ensure corrup-

tion-free education in the country.

The Prime Minister was addressing the concluding ceremony of the National Education Week 2002 at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the afternoon.

The theme of the Week was "Education in Meeting the Challenge of Globalisation".

Underlining the importance of incorporating computer in the modern education system, she warned that the nation would fall far behind if this technology was ignored.

She lamented that the country

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PM: Befitting education system

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was still lagging behind in literacy rate and the institutional education had failed to provide livelihood and guarantee employment.

The Prime Minister advocated expansion of education, devotion and responsibility of teachers, congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions, and accountability and monitoring of the education administration.

The concluding function was also addressed by Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq, Deputy Minister for Education M Abdus Salam Pinto and Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Islam.

Teachers, students, guardians, ministers and senior civil and military officials attended the function.

Some 254 teachers and students were awarded medals and certificates at the function for their

remarkable performances in education and extra-curricular activities.

The Prime Minister also mentioned some allegations against the teachers. The allegations include not paying proper attention to the students and trying to seek financial benefits.

She urged the teachers to maintain proper standard in the private coaching centres, colleges and universities.

Reiterating the need for computer education to meet the challenge of globalisation, Khaleda said her government has decided to provide 10,000 computers to secondary schools.

She said proper training for teachers to enhance their skills is also an important side of the education system.

Referring to women who constitute nearly half of the population, she said national progress is not

possible keeping them uneducated.

She mentioned the fulfilment of the present government's election pledge of making education free for girls up to higher secondary level and providing a monthly stipend of Taka 65 to talented girl students.

She also mentioned other programmes including monthly incentive of Taka 100 for each poor student. In case of more than one child from a family, the stipend will be Taka 125, she said.

Stressing the importance of improving teacher-student relationship for congenial academic atmosphere, the Prime Minister said January 19 will now be observed as "National Teachers Day" for the students to show their respect to the teachers.

She also referred to the "retirement benefit" for non-government teachers and employees reintroduced by the present government.