

তারিখ
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Collective efforts must for spread of edn: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday called for collective efforts for the spread of education to help strengthen the foundation of the country's education system and develop skilled manpower, reports BSS.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the National Primary Education Week-2001 in the Osmani Memorial Auditorium as the chief guest, Begum Zia said a "Social Mobilisation and Communication" project has been taken for close integration of guardians and teachers, school admission, regular class attendance and completion of primary courses.

Begum Zia said it is the demand of time to turn education activities into a social movement.

Presided over by Secretary of Primary and Mass Literacy Division of the Education Ministry Dr.

Tahmina Hossain, it was also addressed by Professor Jahanara Begum, the Prime Minister's advisor on Primary and Mass Literacy Affairs.

Describing education as a precondition for socio-economic development of the country, Begum Zia said in a densely populated country like Bangladesh the spread of primary education is every urgent for human resource development.

She said from this realisation primary education was given recognition as a fundamental right of people in the country's constitution. In this context, she recalled the role of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for introducing the universal primary education programme for the first time to materialise the constitutional right.

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Collective effort

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The function was attended among others, by cabinet Ministers, Parliament Members, diplomats, educationists and a large number of students.

The Prime Minister recalled the steps taken by BNP government in the past for the implementation of compulsory primary education.

She said in 1992 compulsory primary education was introduced in 68 thanas on experimental basis and following success of the programme initiative was taken for its spread throughout the entire country in 1993.

A separate division named "Primary and Mass Literacy Division" was created in August, 1992, she said.

The Prime Minister said the initiative for introduction of universal primary education was undertaken in most of the western countries and Japan towards the end of the 19th century as they felt the tremendous importance of primary education to help build skilled manpower and develop children as worthy citizens.

The Prime Minister said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had made efforts for introducing universal primary education programme in the country in 1980. During his time allocation for primary education sub-sector was increased and massive programmes were taken for its development.

During his time, Begum Zia said, steps were taken for training of teachers, infrastructure development of educational institutions and supply of furniture and other tools to primary schools.

Giving a brief picture of her government's efforts for the spread of education and improve its standard, Begum Zia said steps have been taken to ensure efficient management of the sector at the grassroots level through different steps.

She said measures have been taken to distribute books among children free of cost in due time and ensure supply of inputs of education and other tools.

She said recruitment of competent people as teachers is given priority and added academic supervision is being strengthened for the country's 77 thousand primary schools.

Begum Zia said her government has taken allout measures to check drop-outs and implement the universal primary education programme. She said steps have also been taken for strengthening the mass literacy programme for the spread of education among those elderly people who were deprived of school education.

The Prime Minister said steps of her government to make education attractive through various programmes include cash incentive to one-child poor family at the rate of Taka 100 per month and Taka 125 for families having more than one child from the next financial year in place of 'Food for Education' to check corruption and misuse of fund.

Begum Zia said as per the election pledge her government has made arrangement to make available education free of cost up to HSC level.

Besides, she said girl students