



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, presenting certificate and medal to a successful participant in the cultural competition organised in connection with the observance of the National Education Week, at the prize-giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial auditorium on Wednesday.

—OBSERVER

PM

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sphere. "I have repeatedly stated and am still saying that students will have to be given book, paper and pen to rear them as good citizens acquiring genuine knowledge." She sought cooperation from the people in this respect.

Underlining the importance of an educated, honest and efficient manpower for the country, Hasina said the government had taken a programme to set up at least one primary school at each village.

Besides, the fifth five-year plan envisages establishing science and technology universities in 12 greater districts.

The Prime Minister said the literacy rate was increased to 56 per cent from 47 per cent while 90 per cent of school-going children were brought under special literacy tutelage.

She observed that her government's programmes would raise the literacy rate to 80 per cent in 2000 and the country would be free from illiteracy within 2005 if those steps continued.

Hasina said alongside the construction of new schools, old and dilapidated schools were being refurbished. Curriculum of Secondary and Higher Secondary education was updated to impart quality teaching education to students with an aim to help them have jobs, build their scientific outlook and endow them with social and moral values.

The function was also addressed by Education Minister ASHK Sadique and Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed.

Later, the Prime Minister distributed awards among the best educational institutions, teachers, boys scout and girl guides for their excellent performances in respective domain in 1998.

She also distributed prizes among the students adjudged best in extra-curricular and cultural fields.

Campus terrorism dealt with strong hand, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said students should not be used for serving political ambitions of any quarters which her party did never do in the past nor ever would do in the future, reports UNB.

"We have dealt campus terrorism with a strong hand and improved the academic environment," she told an award-giving ceremony marking the National Education Week '98 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The Prime Minister sounded strong warnings against terrorism in educational institutions, saying that stringent measures are being taken against this vice and will also be taken similarly in future.

About the longstanding issue of a national education policy, she said a committee had recommended an appropriate education policy focused on scientific, technological and vocational curricula.

Hasina said the recommendations on such an important subject like education policy would be placed before Parliament for consideration of the people's representatives to adopt it on a consensus.

She hoped that gradual implementation of the proposed education policy would enable the nation to face challenges of the new millennium to be dominated by science and technology.

The Prime Minister said it is the responsibility of all to maintain a sound academic atmosphere.

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