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## PM asks private medical colleges to give attention to quality of edn

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Prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday asked the private medical colleges to maintain the standard of education to build skilled doctors.

'The private sector has come forward to establish medical colleges. But I think, the authorities concerned should give special attention to properly maintain the quality of education and follow the curriculum at these colleges,' she said.

The prime minister issued the directives while inaugurating the 3rd International Conference on Critical Care Medicine and the 1st National Conference on Critical Care Nursing at the Krishibid Institution auditorium in Dhaka in the morning.

The prime minister put emphasis on attaining higher education and training by the physicians to build quality doctors.

'We want to send the doctors abroad for higher education and training... my question is that if other countries can, why can't we? Why will our country lag behind as we have neither a lack of knowledge nor of talent,' she said.

The premier, however, said there was dearth of scope for higher education as the country had lacked medical universities in the past. 'During the 1996-2001 tenure, our government first established a medical university and faced many obstacles while setting it up,' she said.

She said her present government was setting up medical university in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet, adding that such universities will be set up in all divisions gradually.

'Medicare is a noble profession... So you have to develop a mentality where you treat every patient as a family member,' she said.

Bangladesh Society of Critical Care Medicine and Critical Care Nursing Society of Bangladesh organised the conferences titled 'Criticon Bangladesh 2018'.

Health minister Mohammad Nasim, Bangladesh Medical Association president Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and secretary of health services division under the health and family welfare ministry Md Sirajul Huq Khan were present as the special guests.

BSCCM president Professor UH Shahera Khatun presided over the function, while BSCCM secretary general ASM Areef Ahsan and Criticon Bangladesh-2018 Congress president Mirza Nazim Uddin spoke.

Laying importance on restriction of visitors at the hospitals, particularly the intensive care units, the prime minister said the relatives frequently visit the patients.

She said that the ministers and politicians thought they must go to hospitals to see patients otherwise the patients' and their prestige would be hampered. 'Even camerapersons enter the operation theatres with their television cameras ... why should they enter the operation theatre?' she said.

Sheikh Hasina expressed annoyance at patients' visitors entering ICU units. 'The ICU is a place where patients with critical condition are admitted. But visits made by the relatives could harm the patient there,' she said.

In this connection, the premier mentioned that she no longer visited critical patents at the hospitals now and had asked the hospital authorities to impose a strict restriction on the entry of visitors of the patients at the ICU.

Sheikh Hasina, however, highly praised the doctors and nurses working at the ICUs with heavy risk and said that they did the noble job of bringing back patients in critical conditions to normal life.

The prime minister said many physicians were getting opportunities to utilise their skills and efficiency after completing MD degrees on critical care medicine from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and BIRDEM.

Sheikh Hasina also highlighted her government's strides for development of the health sector.

She said her government implemented massive programmes during the last nine years, like formulation of a time-befitting health policy, recruitment of physicians, dental surgeons and health workers as well as setting up of community clinics to take healthcare services to the doorsteps of the people.

'Healthcare services are being provided to the people through telemedicine and mobile phone and it will be further developed after launching the country's first-ever satellite next month,' she said.

Mentioning the issue of autism, the PM highlighted the role of her daughter Saima Wazed Hossain in creating worldwide awareness about the neurodevelopment disorder and said sincere efforts of Saima had made it possible to bring the problem before the world community.

Referring to Bangladesh's graduation to a developing country from the LDC Group, she said the United Nations' recognition was one step forward towards materialisation of Bangabandhu's dream of establishing a golden Bangladesh.

'It's a great achievement for the country and this success will have to be maintained,' she said.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208  
Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

