

Degrees conferred on BOU graduates

Appropriate education policy soon: Hasina

20

GAZIPUR, Feb 25: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today expressed the optimism that her government would be able to present the nation with a befitting education policy very soon, reports BSS.

She was addressing as the chief guest the second convocation of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) here this morning.

The Prime Minister, who is the Chancellor of the University, conferred bachelor of education degrees on the graduates and gave away certificates.

The function was also addressed by Education Minister ASHK Sadek, Vice-Chancellor Prof M. Aminul Islam and Prof Abu Hena Mohammad Faruque.

Eminent education Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui gave the convocation address.

The Prime Minister said that her government had initiated steps to formulate a new and

appropriate education policy soon after taking over responsibility. She said a committee, comprising eminent educationists, teachers, experts and patrons of education, was formed at the national level.

She said her government also took some steps for the expansion of education. "We would like to have rapid expansion of mass education for our population," she said, adding "we believe, there is no alternative to appropriate education and training in the development of a nation."

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the Open University would play a significant role in creating awareness in the field of human development, health care, environmental protection and self-employment. "I also desire its earnest endeavours in the field of studies on gender issue and women-in-development," she said.

She reminded the audience that no development work would succeed if women, who constitute half the population, were deprived of education and subsequently remain incapable of contributing to development.

Referring to the higher education, she said, "we wish to lay emphasis on science and technology." We have to take examples from other developing nations and pledge ourselves to higher education and research in science, she said.

She said in all fields including education, agriculture and industry, expansion of higher technology would be the main objective of her government's education policy.

The Prime Minister recalled the formation of the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission and said the report of the commission was published in May, 1974. But with the cowardly killing of

Contd. on page 8 col. 6

Education policy soon

Contd. from page 1

Father of the Nation, the commission's report also could not see the light.

Turning to violence on the campus, she said, "I have said time and again that a terrorist, even if he belongs to my party, must be hauled up and given punishment." You have certainly noticed that acts of terrorism are declining fast from the campuses for strict measures taken by us," she added. Seeking cooperations of all, she said, her government would continue to maintain strict attitude towards preserving favourable atmosphere on the campus.

She said throughout the world education is no longer restricted to the campus. She said for the rapid expansion of education, access to the opportunity for receiving it needs to be extended beyond the boundaries of campuses, she added. She said the field of education is now widespread and varies. The learners choose their area of study according to their talent, aptitude and need.

The Prime Minister expressed her satisfaction at the expansion of the educational programme of the Open University and hoped that its technology-oriented programme would ensure the qualitative improvement of education.

The Education Minister said the government wanted a radical reform of the education system and through this a new sense of direction in the field of education.

The Vice-Chancellor said the Bangladesh Open University is an alternative system of education contributing to the upliftment of the overall educational scenario in the country.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui in his address said the impor-

tance of teachers training for primary and secondary schools have been recognised from the early days. Still there was always a big gap between the need and available facilities. It is, therefore, rather encouraging that B Ed programme of the Open University has been so popular with so many, he said.

Referring to the government's vow to achieve full literacy within ten years, Prof Siddiqui said, "I consider this as a declaration of war against illiteracy." We must come victorious in this war, he said adding "otherwise there is no future for us."

The ceremony was attended by members of Parliament, Vice Chancellors, high officials, diplomats and elite.