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Pension allowance for non-govt teachers reintroduced

Zia's birthday declared National Teacher Day

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday declared January 19, the birthday of late President Ziaur Rahman, as the National Teacher Day, reports UNB.

"The day will be observed every year to uphold the dignity of the teacher community and improve teacher-student relationship," she said while inaugurating a language centre at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) in the city.

The Prime Minister also declared reintroduction of the pension allowance scheme for non-government teachers.

She distributed medals, grants and pension allowance among eminent academics and teachers at the function jointly organised by the Education Ministry, Non-government Teacher-Employee Oikya Jote and BIAM.

The PM lamented that the cordial teacher-student relationship that prevailed in the past in our country was now absent. "We want to restore that relationship,"

she added.

Recalling the initiative and contribution of late President Zia, Khaleda said he wanted to bring about a radical change in the education system.

She said Shaheed President Zia had formed a National Education Commission to introduce a modern and suitable education system in the country. She also recalled his contribution to spreading mass literacy and education for elderly people in a bid to remove illiter-

acy.

Zia rebuilt, expanded and established many educational institutions, she said. "But he neither changed the name of any educational institution nor allowed naming any after him during his lifetime."

She said the teacher community remembers him for his contribution to the spread of education and their welfare. The education ministry accepted their proposal to

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Zia's birthday

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declare his birthday as National Teacher Day, she added.

The Prime Minister said she had asked the authorities concerned to reduce the requirement of four-year experience to two years' for promotion to fill in the vacant posts of teachers this year.

She said under the present rules, one needs minimum four years' experience as assistant headmaster to be promoted to the post of headmaster in secondary government schools.

So it has become impossible to fill in the vacant posts through promotion due to the absence of required experience in the feeder post or as assistant headmaster, she said.

She observed that on the one hand teachers are going on retirement before promotion and on the other, proper conduct of schools are being hampered.

The Prime Minister hoped that teachers will now give more attention to improving the standard of education. She urged them to inspire the students to concentrate on learning not only to obtain degree but also to get educated in the real sense of the term.

Referring to massive copying in the examinations in the past, she asked the teachers to involve guardians and conscious masses to prevent repetition of this malpractice.

"More steps are being taken to modernize the education system," she said seeking cooperation from the teachers in ensuring quality education.

On the operation of the language centre at BIAM, the PM said she had pledged to establish a language center in each division under her government's first 100-day programme.

Later, the Prime Minister gave away gold medals to 10 educationists and teachers or their representatives for their outstanding contribution in the field of education and struggle for establishing teachers' rights.

They are: National Professor late principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf, National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan, Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Late Principal Abdul Mannan, Late Principal Mahmud Mokarram Hossain, AFM Khalilur Rahman, Prof Mohammad Latif, Late M Abdul Hye, Qazi Shahadat Hossain, and

M Shahidullah.

The Prime Minister also handed over cheques under the pension facility 2000 to five non-government teachers and employees.

The recipients are: Chowdhury Sahid Hossain, principal of Dr Shahidullah College, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, head of the Bengali Department of Comilla Srikail College, late M Shahidullah, former headmaster of Shukrabad High School, Moulana M. Shamsul Haq, principal of Uttar Badda Islamia Kamil Madrasha, and Shahar Banu, fourth class employee of Sheikh Fazilutunnisa Islamic Women College, Dhaka.

She also handed over cheques from the Non-government Teacher-Employee Trust Fund to five teachers and employee.

Education Minister Osmar Faruk and deputy minister for education Abdus Salam Pintu also spoke on the occasion.