

PM's announcement hailed Govt recognises Qawmi Madrasa degrees

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday announced her government's decision to give official recognition to the certificates of 'Qawmi' madrasas, reports BSS.

"It is my pleasure to inform you that the government, after an overall review, has decided to offer equivalent status of M.A. degree

(Islamic Studies/Arabic Literature) to 'Dawra' degree of 'Qawmi' madrasas," she said at a meeting with eminent Islamic scholars from across the country in the International Conference Center (ICC) in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister's historic declaration was hailed with welcome reverberations of 'Marhaba

and 'Alhamdulillah' by several hundred Ulema and Islamic thinkers attending the meeting.

The Islamic scholars had long been demanding and agitating for official recognition to the certificates of the age-old religious schools known as 'Qawmi' madrasas.

The Prime Minister said a

committee formed at her directive with eminent Islamic scholars (Ulama), Islamic thinkers and noted personalities associated with madrasa education would submit recommendations within one month for adopting necessary planning and formulating techniques to implement the decision.

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Govt recognises

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"I would like to assure you that our government will do every thing necessary for the development of 'Qawmi' madrasa education, particularly for recognition of 'Dawra' certificates of those madrasas," she added.

Begum Zia hoped that the students of 'Qawmi' madrasas would get the rightful recognition to their education with the cooperation of all and make the desired contribution to build the country.

The Prime Minister also informed the meeting that the process of offering equal status of graduation degree to Fazil and masters to Kamil courses of Alia Madrasas is at the final stage. The government decision in this regard would be announced very soon.

Ministers, MPs, university vice-chancellors, academics and senior government officials also attended the meeting. Education Minister Dr. M Osman Farruk made introductory remarks.

The Islamic schools and thinkers included Maulana Mohituddin Khan, Khatib Maulana Obaidul Haq, Mufti Fazlul Haq Aminul, Maulana Ahmed Shafi, Advocate Abdur Raqib, Maulana Abdul Latif Nezami, Maulana Abdul Halim Bokhari, Maulana Abdur Rab Yusufi, Mufti Abdur Rahman, Maulana Noor Hossain Qasemi, Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan and Maulana Sheikh Loqman Hossain.

The Prime Minister said madrasa education is a significant and inseparable part of Bangladesh's education system.

About 10 to 15 percent students of the country take madrasa education formally and informally, but madrasa education could not be incorporated with the mainstream education system, she added.

Begum Zia said lakhs of meritorious students pass out from madrasas every year, but most of them are not getting jobs due to lack of proper policy and time-befitting and quality education.

The Prime Minister said the government is continuously making the highest allocation for education with top priority to the sector.

The government has recently decided to make full payment of

salaries of teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions from the government exchequer despite economic constraints, she added.

The present government has achieved remarkable success in different areas of education management, she said and mentioned that the rate of passing in public examinations has increased, and the number of dropouts at the primary, lower secondary and secondary levels has dropped.

We have also been successful in attaining gender parity in the enrolment of boys and girls up to the secondary level, she said and referred to the stipend programme for female students.