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Govt gives top priority to education: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday hoped that her government's efforts to ensure literacy for all would be successful with the people of all ages in the country getting acquainted with the alphabet, reports BSS.

Inaugurating International Literacy Day programme at Osmany Memorial Hall in Dhaka she said the present government has given the highest priority to education since it (education) has to be improved first while developing any country.

"I will be happy to the utmost, if those who would write the history of development in Bangladesh, identify our present tenure as the era of expanding education, female education, and primary and mass education," she said.

Explaining the reason for her government's emphasis on education, the Prime Minister said the application of modern thoughts of equal rights and effectiveness of democratic ideals are not possible without education.

"To push the future of a nation into darkness, its education system has to be destroyed," she added.

Begum Zia referred to introduction of individual-based monarchy-type rule in the country, ruination of education system, destroying environment of learning, turning public examinations into a farce and scarcity of text-books in the past.

Chaired by Prime Minister's Adviser on Primary and Mass Education Prof Jahanara Begum the inaugural function was also addressed by Primary and Mass Education Secretary AKM Shamuddin.

Ministers, MPs, representatives of development agencies, teachers and officials were present, among others, at the function.

The theme of this year's literacy day is 'Education Sustain Development'.

The Prime Minister listed her government's success in curbing terrorism, poverty alleviation, spreading education and improving healthcare services and said the benefits of government efforts in last five years are already being visible.

She said the government is implementing the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to meet fundamental rights of the people, including food, clothe and education.

Begum Zia said the government has related to education with poverty alleviation. The objective is to turn the people into human resources through education, she added.

As a success of government efforts, the Prime Minister said boys and girls in beautiful dress go to schools in towns and remote villages. "I really get fascinated with their progress," she added.