Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Convocation of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology at Gazipur on Thursday.

Second convocation of BIT held

Khaleda pledges to keep edn campus free from violence

Staff Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Aug 29:– Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia here today (Thursday) said that her government did no longer want to see the names of the students stigmatised with terrorism, extortion and snatching of tenders.

Reiterating the pledge to make the campus free from violence to ensure congenial academic atmosphere, she announced that the government would fill the vacant posts in public services, including resumption of recruitment through civil service examinations, to create employment opportunities.

Besides, the government is considering induction of 15 days of internship for 10 meritorious stu-

dents of graduate and post-graduate levels at Bangabhaban, the Jatiya Sangsad and the Prime Minister's office as per recommendations from the respective institutions and the Education Ministry.

The Prime Minister's landmark declarations came at the 2nd Convocation of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Dhaka, at its Gazipur campus. It is Begum Zia who, also Prime Minister, attended the 1st convocation of the institute in 1994.

"I will request the employers of different chambers, commercial and industrial institutions and bank, insurance and other private bodies to provide the students with part-time

employment opportunities during their vacations," Begum Zia said. This, she believed, would reduce pressure on the guardians through earning and help the students to achieve practical experience well before service life.

She further urged the talented youths and entrepreneurs to come forward in setting up industries of information and communications technology (ICT) sector, a choice of her own as well, to create self-employment opportunities. The government is planning introduction of Prime Minister's scholarship for the meritorious female students to facilitate ICT education for them, she informed the gathering.

The Prime Minister mentioned that her government had allocated the highest amount of money for education budget of Taka 6.810 crore, inclusive of Taka 100 crore for the ICT. "We want, you ensure the best utilisation of it," she told the students.

"If your government can work according to the plans, no educated youths will remain employed in the near future, Inshallah (God willing)," she maintained.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk, State Minister for

Khaleda

Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon, Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintoo, Director of BIT Dr Nasim Ahmed, Vice-Chairman of Council of BIT Dr Nazrul Islam, and Chairman of Board of Governors Prof Dipak Kanti Das addressed the function.

Professor Emeritus of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Dr Iqbal Mahmud delivered the convocation speech.

"I feel shocked, become distressed when I see that the names of the students were published in the newspaper reports for their alleged involvement in certain incidents," the Prime Minister lamented and added that this situation overshadowed the glorious past of the students' role in all the historic movements.

Restating her government's strong stand and measures taken against terrorism and extortion, she made it clear that it (government) was determined to ensure congenial and healthy atmosphere in the education institutions.

In this context, she called upon the students to play a pioneering role in restoring an atmosphere conducive to education. "I myself, our government and all the honest and conscientious people of the country are with you," she assured the students.

Begum Zia said the BNP-led four-party government would try to turn its tenure as an era of expansion of education, modernisation and improvement of standards. She stressed on complete stopping of unfair-means in the examinations, as she sought cooperation of all in this respect.

Emphasising on the scientific and technical education, she referred to the government decision to upgrade four BITs into universities.