

Govt firm to turn population into human resources

# Pragmatic, life-supporting edn system to be pursued: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Monday expressed her government's determination to turn the country's huge population, hitherto nation's cause of concern, into most desired human resources through introduction and implementation of a time-befitting, pragmatic and life-supporting education system, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony on the concluding day of 'National Education Week '96', the Prime Minister said the people of the country would be socially and politically conscious and be economically solvent and above all the country would be self-reliant if the nation could be educated.

Held in the Osmany Smrity Auditorium, the function was also addressed by Education Minister ASHK Sadek, Education Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha and Additional Secretary Prof Dr Tahmina Hossain.

Members of the council of Ministers, PMs, diplomats, intellectuals and educationists

and teachers, students and guardians attended the impressive ceremony.

The Prime Minister said that the nation which pays importance and due respect to education is sure to attain progress and prosperity. Treating education as a stair to progress and prosperity, the Prime Minister said that the nation which can climb this stair can stand with its backbone erect.

The Prime Minister said that despite attaining independence 25 years ago the nation could not achieve its desired progress in education. The standard of education, instead of improvement, rather deteriorated. No education policy whatsoever was formulated during the last 21 years since

the killing of the Father of the Nation.

In this connection she referred that despite taking responsibility of running the war-ravaged country empty-handed Bangabandhu had taken a number of measures for expansion of education. Within a very short span of time Bangabandhu constituted Dr Kudrat-E-Khuda Education Commission which also submitted its recommendations.

The cruel death of Bangabandhu along with his other family members shattered the dream of Bangabandhu to implement a scientific and modern education system in the country, she added. Giving a comparative statistics, Sheikh Hasina said

that the student-teacher ratio, which was 45:1 during Bangabandhu's time, today became 60:1.

Besides, the Prime Minister said that the cost of education inputs was increased while the tall talk-education for all had become a mere paper slogan. In the text books distorted versions of the history of nation's glorious War of Liberation were included and anti-moral teachings were also incorporated in the text books.

Quoting Bangabandhu's saying that education would be the main weapon for nation building thrust, the Prime Minister said that within only three years of his rule the Father of the Nation had nationalised primary education system and made female education upto class eight free to achieve the objective to build a "Sonar Bangla."

Turning back to the present state of affairs in educational arena, the Prime Minister said it is unpleasant to hear that the majority of country's population

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## Life-supporting education

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tion is illiterate and most of them are women. The rate of illiteracy among women is higher than that of men owing to various social ills like family condition, social situation, economic constraints and lack of consciousness. The expansion of female education is very much essential to bridge the difference of the literacy rate between the male and the female, she added. Keeping this in view she said that her government was firm to implement the female education free upto class twelve and take other measures to make the country's womenfolk educated. "An educated mother only could ensure an educated nation" she said.

Referring to various measures, her government had already taken during this very short period, the Prime Minister said efforts are underway to construct new schools, expand infrastructure of existing educational institutes, reform education, implement teachers' training programme, and distribute books free of cost.

"We have decided to include the history of the great freedom struggle in the text books while action is also being taken to exclude the chapters containing immoral contents from the syllabus" she said.

Besides, steps are being taken to enunciate innovative programmes to stop the trend of drop-out from schools. "We want to strengthen scientific and technical education to attune it with the education system of the modern world" she added.

She lauded the theme of observance of the week, "development of women education" and said it is a timely decision.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister ASHK Sadek said that a high-power committee comprising eminent intellectuals, educationists and prominent personalities has been constituted to formulate a national education policy in keeping with the need of the hour and suitable to an independent nation.

The Prime Minister distributed medals among 33 best educational institutions, 54 best teachers and 126 students who displayed their excellence in various competitive events like kirat, hamd, naat, Tagore song, Nazrul giti, patriotic song, folk song, extempore speech, modern dance, classical dance, poetry recitation, essay writing, classical music, set speech, and instant acting.