

Reception to meritorious students

Utilise education for cause of motherland, mankind : PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday called upon the meritorious students of utilise their education and wisdom for the cause of the motherland, society and mankind and not to confine their learning to mere passing examinations and earning personal comforts, reports BSS.

While wishing their future success, the Prime Minister said, "Let your life be dedicated to truth, justice, beauty, welfare and peace."

The Prime Minister was speaking as the chief guest at a reception accorded by the Education Ministry to the meritorious students of the 1996 Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Dakhil Examinations in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on Saturday morning.

Education Minister A S H K Sadek and Education Secretary Abdullah Haroon Pasha also spoke on the occasion while ministers, parliament members, educationists, head of educational institutions and teachers attended the function.

Terming the student community as the symbol of future hopes and aspirations of the nation, the Prime Minister advised them to acquire real knowledge and wisdom so that they could successfully shoulder the future responsibility of

leading the country. "You have to study with more dedication and perseverance as this is the best part of your life to prepare yourselves for playing a leading role in building a happy and prosperous country and nation," she said.

The Prime Minister said, "You have to acquire modern technology and scientific knowledge and then only you will be able to successfully meet the challenges of the new cen-

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Utilise education for motherland

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The Prime Minister said the educational arena would be the main centre for acquiring knowledge and wisdom, flourishing intellect and pursuing the culture of fine arts under a sound and healthy atmosphere. To attain this objective, she said, the campus would be made free of violence and terrorism. In this connection, the Prime Minister said, the educational institutions were vitiated due to evil design of the terrorists while the learners became hostages to them the meritorious students were misguided by giving arms in their hands, she said adding that academic years were dropped out from the life of the students.

The Prime Minister once again reiterated her stand that the terrorists have no party or identity. The government is determined to uproot the evil forces who were the enemy of progress, enemy of education and of society, in this connection, she sought cooperation from all political parties and people of all tiers of social life to eradicate the curse of terrorism from the country. The Prime Minister recalled that when she was leader of the opposition she had stressed on giving books and khatas to the students instead of arms so that they could devote themselves to learning and studies.

The Prime Minister said her

government has taken in hand the task of enunciating a time-befitting education policy in the light of the national needs to face the challenges of the new century which is knocking at the door. The entire education system would be recast, giving emphasis on new innovations, expansion of new thoughts and thinkings, advancement of modern science and to incorporate modern technology into the life-style of the people.

"We are the proud successors of a glorious history and tradition," she said adding that the language movement, six-point and 11-point movements, movement for autonomy and above all, our liberation struggle are the glorious chapters of the national history. National heroes and leaders are our pride, she noted.

But unfortunately, she said, the history of our glorious liberation struggle and other movements were distorted in our text books, adding that her government has taken initiative to rectify the distortions so that the present and future generations could learn the real history of the nation and be imbued with a sense of patriotism and are respectful to democratic norms and values.

The Prime Minister said in the post-independent Bangladesh the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had taken epoch-making steps through nationalising the country's to-

tal primary education. Women education upto class eight was made free. Besides, scientific and life-based education policy was formulated under the Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission recommendations. But the successive governments, she said, did not take any step to materialise that policy.

The Prime Minister said to continue the pro-people education policy of her government the highest priority had been given to education in all national investment and development activities. The government is pledge, bound to launch a meaningful social movement involving people of all walks of life to free the country from the curse of illiteracy within the next ten years. Steps would be

taken to set up at least one primary school in each village and one technical and vocational school in each thana. Religious and madrasa education would also be modernised and developed, she said.

The Prime Minister said training facilities would be created for the teachers to increase their efficiency, the lapses and irregularities in teachers' recruitment would be removed, and the rules and laws relating to education system and educational institutions would be restructured. "We shall keep our endeavours uninterrupted to bring our education to international level," she said.

Stressing the need for ensuring equal participation of the women community in nation-building thrust, the Prime Minister said that all citizens, irrespective of their being children, women and men, have to be educated under the general education system. "An educated nation can never

be poor," she said adding that a prosperous country could be built up through integrated efforts of men and women.

The Prime Minister while referring to the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu to build up an exploitation free prosperous Bangladesh said that he could not achieve it as he was brutally assassinated by the enemies of independence. As people gave Awami League once again the mandate to serve that nation, the responsibility had vested on the present government to translate into reality the unfinished task of the Father of the Nation. To attain this objective, she said, there was no alternative to building an educated, honest, efficient and responsible human-wealth and it could be attained only through expansion of universal education, scientific education and technological development.

The Prime Minister categorically said that the education system would be time-befitting, dynamic and pro-people as the philosophy, ideals, values and the picture of socio-cultural and economic life of a nation are reflected through its education policy. Unfortunately, she said, the education system had gradually become unproductive during the last 21 years because of unplanned education policy.

As a result, drastic erosion of values happened in national life. We have to put an end to such miserable situation through taking steps on the basis of a national consensus within the shortest possible time so that the nation could stand with its head high among the community of nations.

A total of 324 students, who secured positions on the merit lists of various groups in SSC and Dakhil examinations, were given reception. They received certificates from the Prime Minister. They were also presented with a packet of books as gift from the government.