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## The Bangladesh Times

### Hasina seeks IDB assistance Education only solution to poverty alleviation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday expressed the hope that the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) would come forward to render its assistance in poverty alleviation and socio-economic development programmes and for extending religious activities in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the newly-constructed 20-storied building of the IDB-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational WAKF, she said her government had identified poverty as the biggest problem and education as the principal solution.

The Prime Minister said her government had earmarked the highest allocation for the education sector in the development budget. "Human resource development has been given top

priority by our government", she said adding that the government had constituted National Education Commission to frame an education policy suiting the demand of the hour.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Finance Minister Shah A.M.S. Kibria, external resources division secretary Dr. Moshir Rahman, Religious Affairs secretary A.B.M. Abdus Sakoor and the Executive Director of the IDB Faisal Abdul Aziz Al-Zamil.

The Prime Minister pointed out that lower rate of literacy was the biggest impediment on the way of our national development. "A large portion of the population is deprived of edu-

Contd. on page 8 col. 4

### Education only solution

Contd. from page 1

cation because of poverty", she said adding "our government is committed to reach education to them."

Sheikh Hasina said, the world now witness the horror of atomic weapons in one hand and the cry of hungry human babies on the other. She said, millions of unfed and malnourished children are becoming blind and physically handicapped to meet premature death. She said, the soothing words for peace are, for that matter, sounding very hollow and the civilization is beign pressed to the ground.

She said, the money used to build weapons can effectively save millions of malnourished children in the under-developed regions of the world. She said, we are determined to transform the huge population into a meaningful human resource. "We want to make their limbs into the limbs of workers".

The Prime Minister outlined three points to develop education and human resources which include development of human resources through attaching due priority to education, health and other social development programmes. She said, these steps are to bringing in qualitative changes in the education system by technical and vocational training facilities in the schools and modernisation to the religious education institutions, especially the Madrasa education.

Sheikh Hasina said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took

initiatives to establish ties with the Muslim world and the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference immediately after the independence. "His participation in the Lahore Islamic Conference in 1974 is an ample testimony of his deep faith in Islam and his belonging to the Muslim Ummah", she said.

She said Bangabandhu had established the Madrasa Board, the Islamic Foundation, allotted a piece of land in Dhaka for Tablig Mosque and a land for the Vishwa Ijtema Tablig at Tongi and prohibited use of liquor and acts of gambling including horse riding in Bangladesh. She said under his able leadership Bangladesh became one of the founder-members of the IDB on August 12, 1974.

Referring to the child welfare centres in the country, she said that the government was providing Taka 400 per child per month in the registered orphanages in the form of capita-tion grant. She described the utilisation of the earnings from the newly-built IDB-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf building in the development of the children welfare centres and rehabilitation of orphans as a "unique and commendable endeavour which she said was also consonance with "our policies and programmes".

She said the judicious use of the earnings from this Wakf building for the Madrasas would broaden the scope of Madrasa education in the country.