

## Metropolitan

PM tells JS

## Tk 6cr fund set up to help repressed women, children

The government has decided to set up a Tk 6 crore fund to help the repressed women and children, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said this in Parliament yesterday while replying to a question from Kazi Sirajul Islam (Faridpur-1). She said the Cabinet had recently approved the policy guidelines for the fund.

She said there are 73 government-run child and mother care units in different districts to maintain, educate and rehabilitate the orphans.

The Prime Minister said the government has no plan to disburse allowances for children but is going to start a stipend programme at primary level institutions to help the poor students.

Under the programme, each poor student will get Tk 20 per month. The programme would be introduced only in those areas where the Food for Education Programme is absent.

The government allocation for the new fund is Tk 28 crore. About 83 lakh students would get the benefit of the new programme, said Hasina.

Moreover, about 23 lakh students of 17,403 schools in 1243 unions are getting the benefit of Food for Education programme. The government has allocated Tk 370 crore for the programme, said Hasina.

At secondary level, under the female students' stipend programme and the Female Secondary School Assistance Project, the government has spent Tk 259.59 crore to facilitate girls' education. In the current fiscal year, the government has allocated Tk 271.44 crore for these projects.

Industrial plots in four new export processing zones are ready for allotment among investors in the EPZs, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also told parliament yesterday.

Replying to Kazi Keramat Ali (DL), she said plots in Mongla and Ishwardi EPZs are ready for allocation while those in Comilla and Syedpur would be ready by December.

She said the Private Export Processing Zone 1996 was amended in parliament to attract foreign investment.

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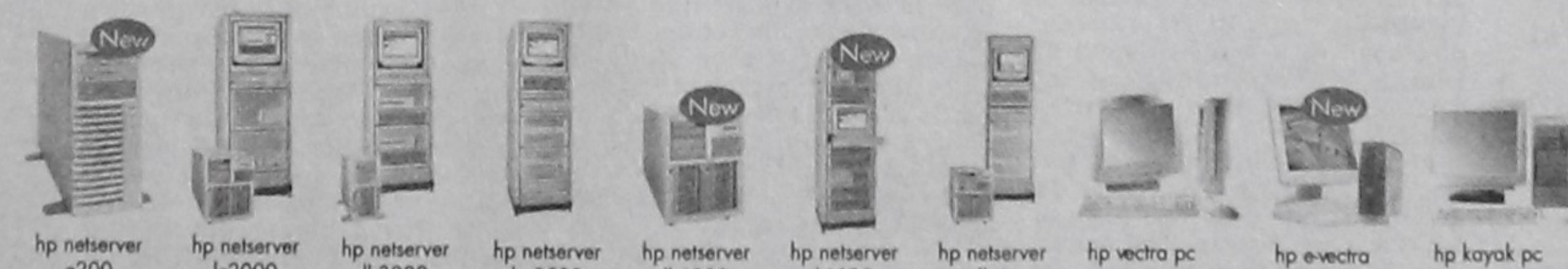
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