

Scientists should identify areas of priority

Proper policy for scientific advancement a must: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday stressed the need for expansion and implementation of science and technology for ensuring economic advancement of the country, reports UNB.

"Massive expansion and proper implementation of science and technology are essential for attaining economic self-reliance and advancement of the country," she told the 4th meeting of the National Council on Science and Technology.

Top level scientists and policy makers, who attended the meeting at Prime Minister's office, suggested that more importance be given to the advancement of science and technology and more incentives to the scientists to stop brain drain.

The Prime Minister said the present government has attached significant priority to the progress of science and technology and is trying hard to achieve progress in various sectors.

"You will have to work for achieving real progress in the education, agriculture, indus-

tries and other sectors to compete with the fast changing world," she told the scientists.

The meeting discussed in detail the various branches of applied science, particularly the agriculture science and approved the decisions of 3rd meeting of the council.

It also discussed the issue of giving the science and technology medal, formation of the executive committee of the council and increasing facilities for science research.

Evaluation of the job structure of the scientists, coordination of various research organisations and development of national technological level also came up for discussion.

The meeting laid emphasis on utilising the outcome of scientific research for eradicating poverty through increasing production.

The Prime Minister said it is necessary to adopt proper policies for scientific advancement of the country, and urged the scientists to come up with appropriate suggestions in this regard.

She said the scientists

would have to point out the sectors of priority to give thrust and to march forward on the basis of proper policies.

The meeting suggested increase of incentive for the scientists to bring them back to the country after they complete higher studies abroad.

It called for increasing compensation and incorporating legal measures against those who do not come back to the country after getting higher degrees at the expense of the government.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, KM Jahangir MP, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, acting Science and Technology Secretary M Fazlur Rahman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Chairman MA Qaiyum, Member Dr MA Wajed Miah and Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council

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Proper policy

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Executive Chairman Dr Zahirul Karim took part in the discussion among others.

Ministers, MPs, scientists, vice-chancellors of different universities, concerned secretaries and high officials attended the meeting.