

BUET CONVOCATION HELD

Radical reforms in education sought

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday called for a wide range of reforms in the country's education system as the nation was lagging behind in literacy, reports BSS.

Addressing the fourth convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at a colourful function, Begum Zia, Chancellor of the University said, "everybody has to come forward with sincerity to change the situation as education is the yard stick of development."

Earlier, the Prime Minister led the convocation procession to the venue. She was received on arrival at the university by BUET Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Shahjahan and senior teachers.

Begum Zia said, though education is a constitutional right of every citizen, the rate of literacy in our country is still very poor.

She attributed the absence of sufficient educated manpower as one of the major reasons to sluggish growth of the country.

The Prime Minister gave

away certificates to 506 students of the 1988-89 session. Of them 466 were given bachelor's degree and 40 Post-Graduate degree. One Ph.D degree certificate was also conferred in the convocation. The Chancellor awarded gold medals to 20 students for their outstanding performances.

Vice Chancellor M. Shahjahan and Prof. Yunus of Grameen Bank also addressed

the function which was attended, among others, by ministers, diplomats, teachers and students of BUET.

The Prime Minister paid tributes to the members of the teaching profession and students for their glorious role in the Language Movement, War of Independence and successful mass upsurge in 1990. She described the regular holding of convocations since the restoration of democracy as the outcome of those victories.

She pointed out that it was the second convocation of BUET in the last one year.

Drawing attention of the teachers and students Begum Zia stressed the need for necessary steps for maintaining regularity of academic sessions. She assured cooperation of the government in streamlining the academic sessions.

She said, favourable atmosphere has to be created to hold classes of different academic sessions simultaneously and check brain-drain and wastage of academic years of students. She regretted that the students of Bangladesh were migrating to other countries in recent years following session jams in educational institutions.

Begum Zia stressed the need for developing appropriate technology through collective efforts of engineers, architects and scientists to utilise the potentialities of the country without depending on imported technology. She said the level of development of the industrially developed countries of South East Asia was almost at par with Bangladesh two decades ago. They have left us far behind only in two decades mainly through their technological advancement, she stated.

The Prime Minister said the government was eager to bring

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Radical reforms

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about reforms in the field of technology. She said the present government was attaching importance to research, development of technology and study of science. She said plan had already been taken to construct shelters in the coastal areas through application of local technology.

Reminding the recipients of the certificates, Begum Zia said Taka 50 thousand was being spent for each student every year from the national exchequer. She advised them to utilise their knowledge to help alleviate poverty and free the country from the curse to backwardness. She expressed the hope that our engineers would make their mark also at home as they sometimes do in foreign countries.

Referring to terrorism in the country's educational institutions which has been vitiating the academic atmosphere, she said the government wanted to uproot terrorism from the campus. She recalled the holding of an all-party meeting with this objective and said recently she also had exchange of views with guardians in this regard.

She appreciated the congenial academic atmosphere prevailing in the BUET and sought cooperation of all in creating such atmosphere in other educational institutions of the country.

Later, the Vice Chancellor presented the Prime Minister with a crest of the 1993 convocation.