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Scholars, academics urged to participate country's dev

President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed on Wednesday appeared critical of the attitude of country's scholars and academics saying that they prefer to live in a rarefied academic atmosphere, reports UNB.

"They must forgo insularity and come down from the ivory tower and share the sorrows and joys of the common people," he said while addressing the 12th Biennial General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh as chief guest on the premises of the society.

President Prof Iajuddin called upon the scholars, academics and intellectuals to come forward to contribute to the development of the country through their writings.

"The interest of the nation should be the overriding consideration in their writings. The intelligentsia has a great role to play in highlighting the nation's history, culture, heritage and achievements both at home and abroad," he told his scholarly audience.

The President also stressed keeping all the educational insti-

tutions of the country suitable for real education and creating real academic atmosphere.

"If we want our nation to march towards progress and prosperity, peace and stability, we must keep all the educational institutions of the country suitable for real education and create real academic atmosphere."

He advised teachers to devote themselves to imparting real knowledge and students to groom themselves to become worthy citizens of the country.

"As a worthy nation we have to face the challenges of the 21st century by exploiting our human resource, scientific and technological know-how," he said.

The President noted that, as a scholarly organization, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh could contribute more to the development of a democratic, politically, economically and culturally sound society.

Dr Ahmed, also the chief patron of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, said the present government is committed to encouraging education at all levels and promote

academic, cultural and intellectual pursuits in the country upholding its tradition and heritage.

Mentioning tremendous contribution towards the advancement of knowledge and human understanding among the nations of Asia since its inception in 1952, Dr Ahmed said the Society's ceaseless efforts to maintain its tradition and commitment to disseminating and promoting learning and knowledge over the last five decades deserve appreciation.

"The Society has redeemed the nation's honour on the cultural and academic front through its publication of standard journals, research books and academic achievements," he said.

It is, no doubt, a laudable work to promote research and creative works of high quality from the scholars and academics leading to national renaissance and regeneration.

President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Prof Emajuddin Ahmed presided while its general secretary Prof Sajahan Miah presented the biennial report of the society for 2006-2007.