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Prof Salam meets Khaleda

Scientific advancement for uplift stressed

Nobel laureate Pakistani scientist Prof Abdus Salam Friday met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and laid stress on attaining scientific and technological advancement by Bangladesh to overcome all impediments to development, reports BSS.

Prof Salam cited examples of Indonesia and Malaysia which had achieved notable progress in the field of science and technology in recent years and hoped that Bangladesh would be able to produce great scientists and leave no stone unturned to attain scientific and technological development.

The 67-year-old Pakistani Physicist said that the development of science and technology was absolutely important for densely populated country Bangladesh and suggested that Bangladesh should give emphasis on the development of Physical Science.

Prof Salam, who arrived in Dhaka Friday on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, also told the Prime Minister at Sugandha that young scientists of Bangladesh should harness their efforts for the environmental development.

He also recalled his cruise with the talented students on the ship Hizbul Bahar in the Bay of Bengal in 1978 arranged by late President Ziaur Rahman. Prof Salam described the sea voyage as an important gesture.

Prime Minister welcomed Prof Salam's visit to Bangladesh despite his illness. Begum Zia wished early recovery of Prof Salam, who is suffering from diabetes and neurological diseases.

The Prime Minister thanked Prof Salam, for expressing his feeling for Bangladesh and viewed that the world particularly Bangladesh and the third world countries and their people always needed a scientist like him.

Prof Salam, who was sitting on a wheel chair, told the Prime Minister that he had collected statistical information on science and technology, health, education and defence of all the countries of the world and found those were spending huge amounts on defence.

"I do not like this", the Pakistani scientist said.

He said Bangladesh should give

emphasis also on the primary and secondary education.

Prof Salam informed the Prime Minister that six Bangladesh scientists were working in his international centre on theoretical Physics at Trieste in Italy. This is the highest number of scientists working there from any single country after China, he added.

Prof Salam, who will attend the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the International Centre for Science, Technology and Environment for densely populated countries at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar today (Saturday),

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urged the Prime Minister to give priority to this centres.

The Prime Minister reciprocated his appeal and said, "it will be done".

Begum Zia told Prof Salam that her government had been making endeavours for the development of science and technology and environment.

The Prime Minister said late President Ziaur Rahman had formulated science and technology policy and formed a separate ministry on science and technology for its development.

Prof Salam also presented some of his books to the Prime Minister. Prof Enrico Feoli, Prof Serena Fonda and Prof Naseem Rahman accompanied the Nobel laureate.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, was also present on the occasion.