

First CU convocation held

Edn can infuse dynamism in development: Khaleda

CHITTAGONG, Feb. 6:—Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today attached importance to education, saying it had no alternative and the nation was lagging behind because of low literacy, reports BSS.

"We all are victims of poverty, superstitions, exploitation and deprivation. Therefore, it is urgent to raise the rate of our literacy to end poverty, exploitation and deprivation. Education alone can infuse dynamism in the national development", she said.

Begum Zia, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Chittagong, was addressing as chief guest at the first ever convocation of the 28 years history of Chittagong University here this noon.

The Prime Minister, attired in blue gown, led the colourful convocation procession. She also conferred graduation and post graduation degrees to over 72,000 students of the University from Academic Year 1968 to 1982.

Begum Zia underscored the need for spreading the light of education to help solve national problems. She listed the measures undertaken by the present democratic government to introduce an education system suitable for a developing independent nation.

"If we can work relentlessly with sincerity at least for a decade by maintaining social peace and stability, then it is not impossible to turn the country into an Asian growth

node for us", she said.

The Prime Minister said "if we place the interest of the country at the top of everything, inspired with patriotism and nationalism, then Insha-Allah, we will be able to attain the expected progress of the country.

Begum Zia described the Port City Chittagong as the birth place of twelve saints and said the war of independence was declared from this city and that was why we were now the citizens of an independent and sovereign Bangladesh.

She also highlighted the significance of the Port City and Chittagong University and recalled the contributions of the teachers and students of the University in the country's independence and democratic movement.

The Prime Minister called upon the intellectuals, specially the teachers and the students to play their role in flourishing the democratic values. She said there was now democracy and absolute freedom of expression in the country.

The Chancellor of the Chittagong University urged the recipients of degrees from the University to lead the socio-economic development of the country.

"We have to build the country with firm determination. We have to make use of the re-establishment of democracy in the country. We have to discard the colonial ideas and

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CU convocation

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thoughts", she told the graduates amid applause and clappings and wished their success.

The Prime Minister expressed her optimism that the prevailing congenial academic environment in the campus would be maintained in the days ahead.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University and an internationally reputed historian Professor Abdul Karim presented the convocation speech. Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury and Pro-VC M. Badiul Alam also spoke.

The Prime Minister also conferred Ph.D. degrees to a number of post-graduate students and handed over gold medals to the recipients of Chancellor Award.

Education Minister, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Energy Minister Dr Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain, Members of Parliament and thousands of students attended the first ever convocation of the Chittagong University. The entire University wore a festive look.