

No major achievement of Renewable Energy Centre at DU

Activities of the Renewable Energy Centre at Dhaka University remained confined to giving research support to the teachers and students instead of carrying out essential research for the energy hungry country, reports BDNews.

"The centre has no major discovery, but it has been helping teachers and students for research purpose," Bose Professor Dr. Mahasham Hossain, the founding director of the centre, admitted to BDNEWS.

The centre, established in 1981, conducts research on renewable energies like solar and wind power, but has no other major success in last two decades. It however, established an Energy Park in 1988.

The discoveries of the centre in last 24 years are solar water heater, solar cooker, solar radiation identification and tunnel for drying up fishes. All of the discoveries were at the initial period of its inception.

Initially it concentrated to research on solar power and developed solar water heater that can boil water up to 70 degrees.

The solar cooker takes two and half to three hours to cook some-

thing. However, the centre developed a process to reduce electricity consumption while cooking during the rains. An additional coil is required for the purpose.

The centre also developed a process to dry up fishes using solar power.

The centre is currently implementing the solar and wind energy resource assessment project with support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Under the project, a digital map determining resource potential of solar and wind power in the country will be developed.

"The digital map will unearth a new window in the country's energy sector," Dr Nimchandra Bhounik, director of the centre, told BDNEWS.

The allocation for the centre from fiscal 1991-92 to 2005-06 was over Tk 4.7 million.

During the period, the Energy Park received about Tk 2.1 million.

However, the major portion of the money has been spent for salaries and allowances of officials and employees of the centre.

Nimchandra Bhounik said the allocation is less than the requirement, but research activities

have been continuing.

He informed BDNEWS that an exhibition of renewable energies will take place in March. Government and private organisations will take part, he said.

Teachers and students of Dhaka University use the facilities of the centre to carry out to studies to obtain higher degrees.