

## Rangpur Science varsity foundation laid Hasina for science-based edn to face future challenge

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that her government had attached top priority to science and technology-based education to prepare the nation for the 21st century.

Addressing the foundation-laying ceremony of the Rangpur Science and Technology University at Rangpur town on Saturday, the Prime Minister said that the 21st century would be an era of science and technology and for this reason her government was trying to formulate a time-befitting science and technology-based education system in the list of Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission Report.

"We have to equip ourselves with the latest knowledge of science and technology because we went to build a self-reliant nation capable of facing the challenges of the next century. The government has already taken various steps for the development of science and technology

and scientific research", the Prime Minister said.

The university will be set up on 75 acres of land adjacent to Rangpur Carmichael University College campus. This will be the first of 12 such universities the government has planned to establish in 12 old/greater district headquarters in two-phases. In the first phase six science and technology universities will be set up in Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gopalganj, Patuakhali, Tangail and Rangamati by the year 2002. In the second phase other six universities will be set up in Bogra, Pabna, Noakhali, Barisal, Jessor and Comilla.

Highlighting the importance of setting up science and technology-based university in the country, the Prime Minister said.

"We want an enlightened life, we want to establish ourselves as a prosperous nation in the 21st century. But we will not be able to achieve this goal through the

traditional education system. A well-planned science and technology-based education can only help us to fulfil this dream."

Reiterating her commitment to introduce a time-befitting science and technology-based education in the country, the Prime Minister said.

"There is no alternative to introducing a science and technology-based education system for the socio-economic development of the society. For this reason, we are trying to establish such universities to educate our children with fast-advancing science and technology".

Sheikh Hasina underlined the need for carrying out more research for expansion and improvement of science and technology-based higher education in the country. "If we build a science-oriented nation we have to practice science and technology

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and also to conduct research for its improvement and expansion," she observed.

While explaining the objectives of establishing science and technology universities in the country, Sheikh Hasina said, the government had five goals which included giving high priority to science and technology-based education, mobilisation of human resources to develop skilled manpower, providing job-oriented training to people,

**Hasina leaves**

creating a scope for achieving knowledge on computer science and electronics.

Sheikh Hasina said, science and technology-based education would play a significant role in human resources development that would help solve unemployment problem to a great extent. She said, poverty was the main problem for Bangladesh and hoped that science and technology-based education would help Bangladesh's youths to get job abroad.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed also addressed the ceremony. Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman and Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak were present on the occasion.