

## Chancellor addresses BAU convocation

# Evolve realistic dev models: Khaleda

MYMENSINGH, June 5: Chancellor of Universities and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia conferred graduate, post-graduate and doctorate degrees on 1516 students of Bangladesh Agricultural University at its third convocation held on the campus here today, reports BSS.

Addressing the convocation ceremony at Zainul Abedin Auditorium the Prime Minister urged the graduates and degree holders of the university to evolve a realistic development model which could effectively contribute to the increase of agricultural production and poverty alleviation.

"Our expectation is to have agricultural technology suitable to carry out the balanced and coordinated development programmes," she said.

Begum Zia also asked the degree holders of the university to evolve such sustainable technology which would inspire the crores of disaster-prone people of the country to start life anew.

Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural Uni-

versity Dr Shah Mohammad Farooq described the third convocation which was held after 21 years as a milestone in the forward march of the university.

The first convocation of the BAU was held on March 28, 1968 while the second one was held on December 31, 1972.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, attired in a blue gown, led the Chancellor procession marking the convocation.

The programme began with recitation from the Holy Quran. After announcing the convocation ceremony open the Chan-

cellor conferred doctorate degrees on 26 students, master degrees on 241 and graduation degrees on 1249 students.

Between the second and third convocations a total of 7647 graduates and 2083 master degree holders were given certificates without any convocation.

The solemn function was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of BAU Dr Shah Mohammad Farooq and the former Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr SD Chowdhury, as the convocation speaker.

The Prime Minister expressed her happiness for being

able to attend the third convocation of BAU and congratulated the recipients of the certificates after completion of their university education.

Describing the BAU as the centre of higher agricultural education and research Begum Zia said the objective of the teachings given here was to develop the country's agriculture and improve the condition of its peasants.

"So this university is an active partner in our development efforts and a reliable companion of national progress," she said.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that it was possible to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh easily by ensuring the planned and full utilisation of the country's fertile land, water resources and huge manpower.

Keeping in view this objective, she said, her government had formulated the policies of agriculture, livestock and fisheries in a coordinated way.

Begum Zia underlined the need for keeping up with the development and production-oriented efforts by putting an end of illiteracy, ignorance and decreasing population growth.

Meanwhile, she said, her government had taken up steps

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## Development model

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to build a self-reliant economy through ensuring social justice and fulfilling the basic needs of the people.

Describing the near self-sufficiency in food production as a great success in the country's agricultural development the Prime Minister said the major contribution for this success came from the Agricultural University.

The agricultural development and its productivity are interlinked with higher agricultural education and research, she said and hoped what the curriculum of this university would be formulated keeping in view the demand of agricultural development.

The Prime Minister recalled an unique example set up by the Agricultural University in the field of voluntary labour organisations at the call of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman 17 years back.

Begum Zia described as a valuable saving for the nation the knowledge, efficiency and

self-confidence the students of BAU had earned and asked them to properly utilise their knowledge and competence for the country's agricultural development.

Quoting a forecast of a western university professor who had said 'Bangladesh will wonder all in near future,' the Prime Minister said: "I hope we have that prospects."

She said Bangladesh could come up with a new identity--of self-reliance--in the coming 21st century if we could bring about fair coordination of the country's people and technology like Japan and Singapore.

The Prime Minister said directives had been given to the planning commission to establish bilateral links with the overseas universities and organisations for developing time-beating agricultural education and research in the country.

She said steps were being taken to construct residential halls for the students of this university, create employment opportunities for the agricultural graduates, involve the experts of Agricultural University with the national development activities and provide an ambulance for the university.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor of the University said academic atmosphere of the institution had improved largely while violent activities on the campus had reduced in recent times.

He said a total of 11,699 graduates, 2,280 masters and 26 doctorates were conferred degrees since the establishment of BAU in 1961.

After declaring the convocation over, the Prime Minister left the auditorium leading the convocation procession. Ministers, MPs, Vice-Chancellors and former vice-chancellors of various universities, teachers of the BAU and graduates were among others present on the