

Scientists receive awards Prepare master plan to develop science: PM

By A Staff Reporter.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Tuesday underscored the need for formulating a master plan in developing science and technology of the country.

Addressing as the chief guest at the award distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, the Prime Minister stressed that a master plan should be developed to cope with the future challenges and attain socio-economic emancipation.

The master plan should be aimed at making an assessment

of the probable application of science and technology in different fields and at determining the task towards development and application of appropriate technology, she said.

"The principal aim of the master plan should be the alleviation of poverty, resistance against environmental degradation and improvement of socio-economic conditions," the Prime Minister said.

She also said instead of fragmented efforts there should be an integrated approach giving directives towards solution

of national problems.

She deplored that the country was lagging behind in the field of technology though there were good quality scientists and researchers in our universities and research organisations. She said no headway could be achieved in scientific development excepting in the field of agriculture.

Begum Zia stressed the need for private participation and patronisation for scientific development in the country.

The Prime Minister made a pledge to donate Taka 3.5 crore for the construction of Science Building for Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. She also said that government was considering a proposal to mobilise adequate fund for the Science Foundation established by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributed gold medal and a cash of Taka 20 thousand to each of the four scientists for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields of science.

The award recipient scientists are: Maj Gen Mohammad Mahmudur Rahman Chowdhury (Retd) (Medical Science), Prof. A. K. M. Nurul Islam (Botany), Dr. Ameer Hossain Khan (Physics) and Dr. Salauddin Khan (Chemistry).

Held at the international conference centre, the award giving ceremony was presided over by Dr. S. D. Choudhury, President of the Academy.

It was also addressed by State Minister for Science and Technology Prof. M. A. Mannan, State Minister for Planning Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan and Prof. Aminul Islam, Secretary of the academy.

State Minister for Planning Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan in his speech underscored the need for further increasing the expenditures on science and research head, saying the budgetary allocations for this head were

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more than doubled this year compared to previous year.

Referring to the re-establishment of the Science and Technology Ministry at the personal initiatives of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the State Minister said there was no denying the fact that without the flourishing of modern science and technology, no country could climb the peak of development.

State Minister for Science and Technology M. A. Mannan also stressed the need for modernising the national research infrastructure in the country for overall development.

Meanwhile, in his welcome address, the President of the Academy Dr. S. D. Choudhury said that science was not only a powerful instrument in sustaining development and alleviating poverty but was also a powerful tool in moulding the thought process of our people.

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