

Khaleda opens Science and Tech Week

Science education must for national uplift

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday laid emphasis on scientific and technological education for the development of the country, reports BSS.

"We want to spread science and technology in every sphere of the society; we want to make people interested about science. That is why people have to be made aware about this subject," she said while inaugurating the 17th Science and Technology Week 1994 at Science Museum at Agargaon in Dhaka.

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M.A. Mannan, Science and Technology Secretary Dr. Mirza A. Jalil and Science Museum Director Dr. M. Sirazur Rahman, also spoke.

Begum Zia said, Bangladesh is a natural disaster-prone country and natural disaster could be tackled by the exercise of science and sustainable technology.

Describing the present age as the decade of science and technology, the Prime Minister said there were congenial environment and initiatives in our country for tapping sufficient manpower and natural resources to set up industries and factories.

But, she regretted that the country had not been able to go much ahead in these fields because of our technological backwardness.

Recalling the great contributions of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in formulation of the science and technology policy in the country for the first time laying emphasis on the culture of science and technology, she said the country-wide science and technology week was being observed since 1977. Shaheed Zia had instructed the observance of the week with a view to spreading the science and technology education and

science orientation among the people.

Begum Zia said the nation was now observing the Science and Technology Week following that tradition launched by Shaheed Zia.

Begum Zia pointed out that her government had attached importance on the culture of science and technology. She said, National Science and Technology Council had been formed to coordinate the exercise and appropriate application of science and technology. She said a separate Ministry on Science and Technology had also been created.

"We want to innovate sustainable technology and its application for the development of the country," Begum Zia said.

Referring to the aims and objectives of the Science and Technology Week, the Prime Minister said it had been organised to find out the young scientists spreading across the country and to inspire and award them for innovation and discovery.

"I am confident, these young scientists will help the country turn into a self-reliant one through sustainable technology. We have to continue the observance of Science and Technology Week every year aiming at the socio-economic development of the country," she added.

Begum Zia hoped that the nation would be affluent in the spirit of science and technology.

The Prime Minister, later, went round different stalls of scientific and technological displays. She expressed her satisfaction at the quality of the displays of the young scientists and asked them to innovate cheaper devices.