

IPSA convocation held

Innovate technology to face future challenges: Khaleda

GAZIPUR, June 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the agronomists to innovate more technologies for effective promotion of the agricultural sector to prepare the country to face the challenges of the next century, reports BSS.

Laying great emphasis on the modernization of the country's agriculture she asked the agronomists to contribute in a big way to the national development.

"You (agronomists) will play due role in poverty alleviation through proper combination of your patriotism, labour, talent and skill", the Prime Minister hoped while speaking at the first convocation of the Institute of Post-Graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) here.

Modernization of agricultural production, she said, is required to attain self-reliance in food, clothing and other essentials and to cope with the needs of the country's ever increasing population.

Begum Zia, also the Chancellor of the IPSA, said those graduating from this in-

stitute were making notable contributions to the development and dissemination of modern technology in agriculture. IPSA is an Institute of higher learning in basic and research-based applied agricultural science.

The scientists of the institute are also engaged in facilitating the identification and solution problems related to agricultural production.

Begum Zia conferred M.S (Master of Science) degree to 59 graduates and distributed certificates among them. She extended her felicitations to the graduates who were awarded degrees from this institute to-

day.

Earlier, the Prime Minister wearing convocation gown entered the venue with convocation procession.

At the ceremony IPSA crests were presented to the institute's Chancellor, Begum Khaleda Zia, convocation speaker Dr. Kazi M. Badruddoza, ambassador of the U.S.A. to Bangladesh David N. Merrill and ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka.

The crest of the U.S. ambassador was received by a representative of the US Embassy on behalf of Mr Merrill.

IPSA is developed with technical cooperation from

Japan and the United States.

Rector of IPSA Prof. Abdul Halim and convocation Speaker Kazi M. Badruddoza spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said changes must be brought about in the agricultural research, extension and development pattern of Bangladesh in the light of the worldwide expansion of science and technology.

The government, she said, is working to develop a huge skilled and educated manpower to attain the target of agricultural development.

Describing poverty alleviation as a big challenge Begum Zia said "we have to create em-

Contd. on page 8 col. 7

Innovative technology

Contd. from page 1

ployment opportunities in the rural areas by increasing agricultural production and setting up small scale agro-based industries."

The Prime Minister underlined the need for following the path of modernization of agriculture to move the country gradually from dependence on agriculture to the status of industrially developed country.

The BNP government, she said, had taken necessary steps to build a self-reliant economy for ensuring social justice. The Prime Minister said set up by late President Ziaur Rahman in 1980 The Bangladesh College of Agricultural Science was later transformed into the Institute of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture to conduct academic programmes at masters and doctoral levels.

The BNP government, she said, had taken steps to transform IPSA into a centre of excellence in South Asia in the field of higher agricultural education and research.

The Prime Minister lauded the contributions of the institute for adding newer dimensions to the country's agricultural production through inventions of new technologies for combating pests and diseases and developing improved varieties of crops and better production method.

Begum Zia hoped that IPSA

would become an institute of creative and efficient scholars to provide leadership in the fields of Agricultural development, research and agricultural growth.

The government, she said, would continue its cooperation in this regard. Begum Zia said there is no alternative to hard work, and research to survive in an atmosphere of intense competition of the 21st century.

A newer outlook is needed to be cultivated in agricultural production while the country should be covered with plants and trees.

The Prime Minister asked the agricultural scientists to help make the globe a beautiful abode without pollution side by side with increasing food production.