

Salam lays stress on physical sciences

Nobel Laureate Physicist Prof Abdus Salam on Sunday called for laying emphasis on biological science along with physical science for attaining the development of Third World countries including Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Prof. Salam also laid stress on attaining scientific and technological advancement by Bangladesh to overcome impediments to its development.

The 67-year old Pakistani scientist was addressing the special convocation of the Dhaka University, where he was conferred with honorary Doctor of Science (D Sc) degree. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the Chancellor of the Dhaka University, conferred the degree at a special convocation, held at Curzon

Hall on Sunday morning.

Referring to the theory of electroweak interaction, the centre piece of all modern research in particle physics, which earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics, Prof. Salam said for the last two years he had been working on the origin of life and the universe applying his own theory.

Prof. Salam expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Dhaka University authorities for conferring him the degree and added he was proud to receive the honour from an institution, having tradition, hard to equal in the entire sub-continent.

Prof. Salam recalled his association with the Physics Department of Dhaka University

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and said it was the place where Bose-Einstein statistics, so important to understand nature, was born. "I always felt proud to find that my portrait got a place in the department along with many eminent scientists including S.N. Bose and others who had taught here, he said.

The Nobel Laureate said many brilliant students of the department, now working for international organisations, had made their mark in the field of research on science and technology. In this connection, he mentioned that Bangladeshi scientists, working for the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy of which he is the Director, had earned international reputation.

He recalled his first visit to Dhaka in 1960 in connection with attending All Pakistan Science Conference. Since then I visited Dhaka many times, Prof. Salam said, adding "I always look forward to renewing my fond association with Dhaka, now the capital of a proud nation.

He said he was happy to note that the present democratic government had attached priority to setting up the International Centre for Science, Technology and Environment (ICSTED) through incorporating the project in the Annual Development Programme.

Prof. Salam thanked Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who as the Chancellor of the Dhaka University, conferred the degree on him.