

Chancellor confers DSc on Prof Salam

Dhaka University enters new era of renaissance

By A Staff Reporter

Prime Minister and Chancellor of Dhaka University Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Nobel Laureate Physicist Prof. Abdus Salam at a special convocation with the hope that Prof. Salam's profound wisdom, intellect and greatness will "awaken our quest for learning".

The 67-year old Pakistani scientist wearing black cap and green convocational gown received a round silver casket containing the certificate and the citation amidst applause from the audience comprising academics, scientists and guests at the special convoca-

tion venue, the 90-year old Curzon Hall auditorium.

In honouring Professor Abdus Salam, this university pays homage to the highest intellectual attainments and noblest human qualities, the citation said.

It was a memorable event for the country's oldest university to honour Prof. Abdus Salam, one of the most outstanding scientists and a great humanist, who, Begum Zia

said, is not a citizen of a particular country, but a citizen of all countries of the world.

The threat to disrupt the special convocation by Prof. Awaraz Bangladesh Chhatra League activists and Ganapatrik Chhatra Oikya supporters could not dampen the enthusiasm of the academics, scientists and guests in attending this great event.

The Prime Minister in her speech paid deep respect to Prof.

Salam and said we are grateful to him for his presence in our midst to accept the honorary degree. She said Prof. Salam's wisdom, intellect, basic conviction to science and his efforts to the expansion of scientific activities and application of science to human welfare in the poor countries are well known to the enlightened people all over the world.

"He has enriched the mankind by his uncommon talent. On this auspicious occasion, I pray that our country will be flooded with the light of knowledge anew and a new era of development will usher in".

The Prime Minister said. Begum Zia expressed the hope that the teachers of Dhaka University being imbued with

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Shahidullah and Dr. Kudrat-e-Khuda, Begum Zia said.

In this Curzon Hall Bhaban, Satyendra Nath Bose conducted his investigative research. The men of learning in our country are now aware of the ebbs prevailing over some decade in the cultivation of knowledge and intellect after the period of renaissance. "We at the function organised in honour of Prof.

Salam feel that we will step into a new era of renaissance", she said.

The Prime Minister recalled the science conference in 1961 in Dhaka which was presided over by Prof. Salam where he had advocated for a revolution in the field of knowledge. "It has now become imperative for the poor countries to effect a revolution in the field of knowledge," she said.

"There was none like Prof. Salam to emphasize the need for the application of science and technology in the development strategy for the poor countries," Begum Zia said.

She said Prof. Salam had visited Dhaka several times since 1961 and his visit always created enthusiasm among the men engaged in the pursuit of knowledge. Prof. Salam became the 33rd recipient of the honorary degree from the Dhaka University. The univer-

sity conferred such a degree after 19 years.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, Prof. Salam, the members of the senate, Syndicate Academic Council and teachers of Dhaka University, wearing convocation gown entered the auditorium in a procession. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor, wearing a black gown, was the last to enter the auditorium. The audience who included ministers gave standing ovation when the Prime Minister and Prof. Salam entered the auditorium.

From the porch of the Curzon Hall, Prof. Salam was taken to the dais in a wheel chair.

The Nobel Laureate has been suffering from neurological illness.

Prof. Emajuddin Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University paid glowing tributes to Prof. Salam and referred to the International Centre of Theoretical Physics established by Prof. Salam at Trieste.

the ideals of Prof. Salam would make the practice of knowledge more lively through research and devotion to work. "We hope you will brighten the light of knowledge in this problem-ridden society", she said.

The Prime Minister hoped that students, who are going ahead in their quest for knowledge despite odd, will get a new sense of direction from the ideals of an outstanding personality like Prof. Salam.

"There might be some partial truth in the saying we are emotional nation. But is also true that we have a rich tradition of knowledge starting from the days of great scholars like Shalabhadra and Dipankar till the days of Dr. Muhammad

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