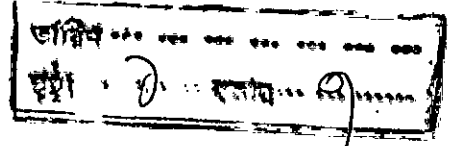


JAN. 21 2001

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER



6th BUET convocation held

PM urges engineers to utilise resources

Staff Correspondent

The government has taken programmes to launch the country's first-ever satellite named "Bangabandhu Communication-1".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday disclosed the ambitious plan while addressing the 6th Convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The Prime Minister called upon the engineers, technologists and scientists to work for maximum utilisation of national resources for development of the country.

Sheikh Hasina, the Chancellor of the University, conferred degrees on 1,566 students with bachelor degrees, 254 with masters and 10 with PhDs. Some 20 students and three teachers were awarded with gold medals for their extraordinary performance in academic subjects.

Former Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal addressed the assembly as convocation speaker while Education Minister ASHK Sadique and Vice Chancellor of BUET Prof Nuruddin Ahmed also spoke.

Sheikh Hasina reiterated her call for developing at least 1,000 computer programmers a year in the country to meet the growing need of IT professionals in the

global market.

Sheikh Hasina referred to the government steps for flourishing the IT sector including the recently formed 15-member task force led by the Prime Minister to explore potentials of the thrust sector avoiding bureaucratic bottlenecks.

"We want to build up skilled manpower in IT sector," she told the BUET teachers and students and added, "We want to turn our huge population into human resources." She opined that knowledge would be the main capital in the current century.

The Prime Minister said that her government was working with a vision to develop the nation. She listed various initiatives and achievements of her government, including CHT peace treaty and Ganges Water-sharing Treaty.

"We have been able to establish transparency and accountability," she said and emphasised the need for stability, which is not possible without democracy. She also said the anti-liberation forces divided the nation.

Hasina said poverty alleviation is not possible without growth. Her government achieved a

(See Page 16 Col. 5)

PM urges

(From page 1 col 8)

growth rate as high as 5.92 per cent, she added.

About discipline in the financial sector, the Prime Minister said that her government had taken strong decision against the loan defaulters that resulted in increase in realisation of bank money from the defaulters.

Earlier, the Prime Minister led the convocation procession.

She laid the foundation of new administrative building of BUET at West Plassey. The first phase of the 12-storied twin building will be completed at a cost of Tk 3.1 crore. Apart from administrative work the building will have facilities of holding classes for 1000 students.