

## PM addresses BUET convocation

# Engineers urged to face challenge of 21st century

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Thursday urged the engineers and scientists of the country to prepare themselves with newer and innovative knowledge of technology to face the challenge of the 21st century.

"We must accelerate the pace of the engineering and technological know-how and apply them successfully in the nation building task" Sheikh Hasina said addressing the fifth convocation of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Tech-

nology (BUET) at the university ground.

The Prime Minister who is also the Chancellor of the universities conferred certificates on 10 PhDs, 299 post graduate and 2675 graduate engineers at the convocation. She also awarded 35 students of BUET with gold medals for their outstanding results. Sheikh Hasina awarded Dr. Sohrabuddin, Professor of Civil Engineering Department with Dr. Rashid Gold Medal for his contribu-

tion in research and teaching in the university. Dr. Sohrabuddin completed 35 years of teaching in the Department of Civil Engineering in BUET with credit.

Chaired by herself, the convocation was addressed by former Chief Justice and Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government Mohammed Habibur Rahman as the convocation speaker, Education Minister ASHK Sadek and Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr. Iqbal Mahmud.

The Prime Minister stressed on improvement of technology for the economic development of the country and asked the Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology to take the leadership in supplying efficient and skilled engineers.

Sheikh Hasina told the engineers to keep themselves abreast with the knowledge of the latest development in engineering and technology. She said that the technologists could not remain static and must go with the speed and momentum of technology. She welcomed the initiative of the BUET for opening "continuous education directorate" in BUET for pursuing up-to-date knowledge of modern technology and imparting training.

Sheikh Hasina told the engineers and technologists to look at the South East Asian countries which had achieved progress by applying the latest technology. She said that South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia had not much difference with Bangladesh in socio-economic scenario 30 to 40 years from now. But, she said that those countries had left us be-

See Page 12 Col. 2

## Engineers urged

From Page 1 Col. 8

hind and advanced ahead by applying the technology and the engineering knowledge. "We must find out reason for lagging behind", she said.

The Prime Minister said that the total development of the nation and improvement of the quality of life of the people by eradicating poverty was the main objective of the Government. The Awami League, she said, was running the government with the consensus to give priority to the national welfare and ensure a healthy atmosphere in politics. She said the government had attached importance on decentralisation of the administration and the Local Government system to ensure participation of the people in running the state affairs.

Speaking on the education policy, the Prime Minister said the committee had submitted its report to the Government. "We shall introduce science based education in the country in the light of the recommendation of the committee, Insallah", she asserted. The government, she disclosed, had taken initiative to establish 12 more universities in the headquarters of former greater districts. She said that the government was sincerely making efforts to end session jam and ensure academic atmosphere in the country's educational institutions.

Sheikh Hasina said that the government had taken extensive efforts and initiatives to exploit the underground mineral and energy resources.

The Prime Minister assured the authorities of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology of her government's total support and cooperation in establishing modern laboratories in different departments

of the university.

The Prime Minister urged all scientists, engineers and technologists to utilise all available resources of the country to make optimum use of them for the welfare of the people considering the constraint resources of the country.

The Prime Minister who is also the Chancellor of BUET urged the BUET authorities to expand the role of the university as an ideal institution free from session jam.

Earlier, the Prime Minister entered the convocation pandal leading the convocation procession. The convocation procession was participated by the teachers, and the graduates engineers of the university.

UNB adds: In the convocation speech, Justice Habibur Rahman said student politics is now a profitable occupation in the country. "Some of the students do not hesitate to take the opportunity with a hope for earning money and having influence".

The guardians, students, teachers and a large section of the society from educational authorities to government have become hostage to the terrorists bearing the name of the students for lack of proper implementation and law and order, Justice Rahman said.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek said the government has increased its investment in the science and technological sector to achieve the desired goal.

BUET Vice Chancellor Prof Iqbal Mahmud said the existing student politics is not favourable for maintaining a congenial academic atmosphere.

"Terrorism is not a supportive force for education... there should be qualitative changes in student politics", he said.