

President tells BAU convocation

Prevent misuse of agriculture lands

MYMENSINGH, Feb 5.—President Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed today called for creation of cluster-villages for human habitation to stop misuse of agriculture lands, reports BSS.

"Increased human habitation as well as brickfields are destroying the agriculture lands and we must stop this practice in the greater national interests," he said and called for concerted efforts to increase agriculture lands for more food production in the country.

The President referred to the ratio of cultivable land and supremacy of small and medium scale farmers on their lands and said it had been reducing due to the growth of population in the country. The concerned authorities should undertake effective measures on priority basis to solve these problems," he said.

President Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed was addressing the 5th Convocation ceremony of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) at the Shilpachariya Joynul Abedin auditorium here. The President is also the Chancellor of BAU.

Education Minister Dr. M. Osman Farruk convocation speech while BAU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman gave welcome address. Ministers, Members of Parliament, Vice-Chancellors of different universities, academics, teachers and students of BAU attended the function.

The President in his speech urged the farmers to put in their best efforts in producing more crops on commercial basis to help the national economy keep pace with the current global open market policy. "Government and Non-government organisations should coordinate with each other in this regard," he also said.

He referred to the realistic approaches of the present government for further development in agriculture and said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had already undertaken pragmatic steps towards that end.

"The government is implementing different reform programmes in the agricultural sector to ensure adequate supply of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs to raise crop production," he said. Besides, proper attention is also being given towards expediting research programme to boost production in this sector, he added.

Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed, also a renowned soil scientist of the country, referred to the excess use of fertilisers and pesticides in agricultural fields, posing serious threat to all living beings including mankind and aqua animals. "There must be a judicious use of both fertiliser and pesticides in agriculture fields," he cautioned.

Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed congratulated the BAU's graduates and expressed his firm confidence that they would dedicate their heads and hearts towards ensuring more welfare of the country and its people in the years ahead.

Earlier, the President led the convocation parade participated by the graduate students and others present on the occasion. The Education Minister, Vice-Chancellor of BAU and Deans and Syndicate members joined the parade by wearing traditional convocation gowns.

Later, the President handed over certificates to the graduate students of the university. He also handed over gold medals to 94 students of graduate and post graduate levels for their outstanding results in the university.