

Ershad recalls contribution of Muslim rulers

# Islamic Varsity in Tongi opens

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Thursday inaugurated the Islamic University near Tongi, 30 kilometres from Dhaka expressing the hope that this university will prove to be a unique and exceptional educational institution in imparting and acquisition of both spiritual and material knowledge reports BSS.

He said inauguration of this Islamic University, first of its kind in the country will go down in the annals of history.

The President said Muslim rule in this part which comprises Bangladesh is regarded as golden epoch because during that period this land reached the pinnacle of glory in all realms including education and culture, science and knowledge and trade and commerce.

Bengal which was the language of the common man was also promoted and accorded literary stature during the Mus-

lim rule in Bengal, he said adding The Muslim rulers have also the credit of introducing the Bengali calendar year.

President Ershad said his government is determined to give practical shape to the beliefs and aspirations of the people who adhere to Sunnah and the tenets of Islam. Adherence to Islamic tenets is the panacea for all our problems, he said adding We must establish Islamic values to prevent social and moral erosion.

In this context, he mentioned a number of bold measures taken by his government including declaration of Friday as weekly holiday creation of Zakat Fund introduction of family courts, imparting training to imams establishment of Islamic University Islamic cultural centres and libraries in mosques and taking up of programmes for renovation, expansion and development of thousands of mosques.

The President spoke of government Endeavours to turn mosques into centres of moral and social uplift in the form it was done during the golden days of Islam. He said establishment of 4,000 mosque libraries have been planned and more 18,000 imams will be imparted training.

During the inaugural ceremony, munajat was offered for the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and the Islamic University after unveiling of the plaque. The Vice-Chancellor of the university presented the President with the rest of the institution.

The inaugural function was

addressed by Law and Justice and Education Minister, Mr. Justice Nurul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of the university Dr. A. N. M. Mumtazuddin Chowdhury and members of university syndicate and President of Jamiatul Mudarresin, Moulana Abdul Mannan.

Ministers, diplomats and high civil and military officers were among others who attended the function.

The concept of Islamic University is based on Muslim Ummah where an Islamic University is one where the entire courses of study and syllabus in all branches of humanities, social science, natural and applied science are Islamised and teaching is imparted from Islamic point of view.

According to the concept, Islamic University is not the one which imparts teaching merely in Theology and Islamic studies, but also provides balanced curricula and syllabus combining divine knowledge attained through the source of holy Quran and Sunnah and acquired knowledge attained through the intellect.

The university will have faculties of Theology and Islamic Studies (Sharia) Humanities and Social Science and the applied Science.

The foundation of the university was laid in July 1983.

Three hundred students will be taken in the university from the current academic year under the Faculty of Sharia and the faculty of Humanities and Social Science.