

ICTVTR to bring Islamic countries closer: Ershad

JOYDEVPUR, Aug 31 (BSS): President HM Ershad today expressed the hope that the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the Organisa-

tion of Islamic Countries, would continue to grow in the future to serve the Muslim ummah and develop truly as the future Islamic institute of technology.

Addressing the third congregation ceremony of the ICTVTR, the President urged the OIC member countries to continue their support and come forward with their contribution to enable the centre to enlarge its horizon of activities.

"I can see the light at the end of tunnel, the days of glories ahead for the centre and the ummah", he said.

President Ershad gave away certificates to 48 students from 11 Islamic countries, including host Bangladesh, who did Masters and diplomas in various branches of study at the centre.

The congregation function held at the centre's auditorium was also addressed by the visiting OIC Secretary General.

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Dr Hamid al-Gabid, Minister for Education, Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Director of the ICTVTR Prof. A.M. Patwari.

The President arrived at the congregation venue in academic procession in convocation robes.

The function was attended by Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, ministers, senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps and academicians.

The newly graduated students were from Jordan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Palestine, Somalia, Maldives, Malaysia, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Bangladesh.

President Ershad said the ICTVTR was a shining example of joint Islamic action and it was a matter of great pride and honour that Bangladesh had been chosen as the location for such an institution.

"I am convinced that the great interest and commitment, the OIC and member states have been showing towards the centre, the institution cannot but grow from strength to strength", he said.

The President said the ICTVTR was an institution which had chosen excellence as its goal and its aim was to create educated and trained engineers and technologists who could contribute to the technological development of the Islamic ummah and their own countries.

"You are not, therefore, mere graduates of an educational institution but the young pioneers of Islam who rekindle new hopes among the vast multitudes in our countries", he said.

President Ershad expressed the hope that the graduates of the ICTVTR would provide leadership in the development of technologies in their respective countries which would have a multiplying effect on

generating appropriate technologies and new skills.

"I can visualise the day when the graduates of the ICTVTR will forge links worldwide which will bring the Muslim countries closer and strengthen the unity of Islamic ummah", he added.

Recalling the past glories of the scientific and technological achievements of the Muslims, President Ershad said in the days of darkness Islamic scholars like Ibn Sina, Ibn Khaldun, Abu Rushd and Al-Farabi had not only held the torch of knowledge firmly but also burnt it brightly.

He said the Industrial Revolution in the West which had spurred progress could be retraced to the European renaissance which would not have been possible without contributions by the Islamic scholars, scientists, doctors, astronomers, mathematicians, artists and writers.

President Ershad said he was very pleased to know that the 18th Islamic conference of foreign ministers had asked the ICTVTR to upgrade and intensify its training programme to meet the changing engineering and technological needs of the Muslim countries.