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IUT convocation held PM calls for befitting reply to provocations against Islam

GAZIPUR, Sept 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the Muslim Ummah to give a befitting reply to provocations against Islam through democratic advancement, socio-economic progress and supremacy in the fields of knowledge and science, reports BSS.

"For achieving these objectives, mutual understanding, solidarity and unity of the Islamic fraternity throughout the globe is urgently needed," she said while addressing the 20th convocation ceremony of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), an educational institution run by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), at the outskirts of the capital.

Khaleda Zia said in recent days

untrue and misleading campaigns are being waged in some mass media against Islam and the Muslims. "At some places, the struggles for freedom and self-determination are being branded as religious terrorism," she added.

Conspiracies are also on to belittle Islam and its adherents on different pretexts, she said and stressed the need for giving a befitting reply to those provocations.

Referring to the revolutionary changes in various branches of science and technology in the new millennium, the Prime Minister said the Muslim World will also have to keep pace with the mainstream knowledge and science if they are to survive and forge ahead in this fast changing and

intensely competitive world.

The Muslim countries will have to groom up skilled human resources through qualitative improvement of education, and devise and apply appropriate technologies for socio-economic prosperity and development, she said. "Backwardness in all fields, including military technology will have to be overcome. This is essential if we are to build a just and balanced world-order," she added.

A total of 197 students from different Muslim countries, including host Bangladesh were conferred with masters and bachelor degrees and diploma in different disciplines of science and technology at the convocation.

PM calls

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A message of IUT Chancellor and OIC Secretary General Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu was read out at the function by OIC Director General Dr. Rezley bin Mohammad Nordin.

IUT Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Fazli Ilahi delivered the address of welcome while IUT Registrar M. Ahsan Habib gave the vote of thanks.

The Prime Minister gave away gold medals and certificates to the outstanding graduates. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the 32nd board meeting of the IUT.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, academics, guardians of the graduating students and eminent personalities were present at the function.

Recalling the golden era of Islamic civilization when many Muslim scholars enriched different disciplines of science and knowledge, and arts, literature and philosophy, the Prime Minister said, "We must revive our past glory."

For achieving that goal, the Muslim Ummah will have to be sincere in practice, application and flourishing of knowledge and science and they have to make all-out endeavours for the purpose, she said and added Muslim Ummah should revive its past glory and heritage in the present day context.

us to occupy a position of honour on the world stage," she said recalling the arrival of Islam fourteen hundred years ago had illuminated world civilization with new radiance. Islam has accorded equal status to prayers and the practice and acquisition of knowledge, she added.

Recalling the role of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in setting up of the IUT in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said he had consciously tried till the last date of his life to develop this institution and transform it into a world-class institution.

Stressing the need for developing the IUT into a centre of excellence for the knowledge seekers, she said reforms and up-gradations will have to be carried out in line with the demands of time. For this to happen, she urged the OIC member states, particularly the well-off ones to come forward liberally and sincerely.

The Prime Minister congratulated the graduating students and wished them success. "We are hopeful that you will utilize the education you received here for socio-economic growth of your homelands," she said.

She hoped that the friendship among the students will make far-reaching contributions to enhance exchange of knowledge and information and consolidation of Islamic solidarity among the OIC countries.

M. Mohiuddin Khan of Computer Science and Information Technology Department was adorned with OIC Gold Medal 2006 securing 4.99 points out of 5 in B.Sc examination. M. Raju Hosain of Mechanical Engineering Department and Naseeb Ahmed Adnan of Electrical and Electronics Department secured IUT Gold Medal 2006.