

Spread of Islamic edn stressed

SAVAR, Dec. 28:—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad inaugurated the Institute of Higher Islamic Learning of the Darul Ihsan here today expressing the hope that it would become a focal point for the understanding and comprehension of Islam as a moral and social force, reports BSS.

The President said let the Institute project the essence of the eternal message of life that Islam conveyed. Referring to the importance attached by Islam to education, he said modern world regarded education as the basic necessity for human progress.

The function was addressed by Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Secretary General of the Makah based Muslim world League Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef, President of Islamic Academy at Cambridge Shaikh Ahmad Jamjoon, National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan, Dean of the Institute of Higher Islamic Learning Sheikh Muhammad Abdur Rahim and Baderuddin, Chairman of Darul Ihsan Trust Syed Ali Ashraf

and Assistant Rector of the Institute Syed Ali Naqi.

Professor Anwar Dil presented an Islamic calligraphy to President Ershad and some other to different organisations while Shaikh Muhammad Abdur Rahim Jad Baderuddin led a muhajjat seeking divine blessings for the success of the institute.

The inaugural ceremony of the Institute was attended, among others, by Ministers, high civil and military officials, diplomats and educationists.

The President said nearly one-fifth of the present global population was illiterate and most of them were from the developing countries. The industrial nations even in this century had about 17 million people who could not read and write, he said adding mass literacy and basic education for all were the crying need of the coming decade.

He said there was a renewed sense of urgency in the world to ensure education for all and the international

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al bodies, the UN system and nations of the world were moving in concert to achieve this objective. In a basic sense, he pointed out this realisation was a reassertion of the eternal wisdom of the first revelation enshrined in the Al-Quran which calls upon the believer to read.

President Ershad said the Institute would be able to fulfil its noble mission if it could help education—complete education—as envisaged in Islam and spread it all over the world. He said Bangladesh welcomed this non-government initiative as a significant step furthering cooperation within the Islamic Ummah.

He said the brotherly nation of Saudi Arabia not only had custody of most sacred places of Islam but played a central role cementing the bonds of amity and unity among Muslim nations. It was heartening to see that alongside the government, the distinguished people of Saudi Arabia had come forward to help other countries in the fields of education and economic development, he said.

The President noted with happiness to find that this private venture was supported by eminent friends of Bangladesh and said with the advice, generous support and cooperation and guidance of scholars from home and abroad this Institute could be transformed into a centre of excellence. He assured that his government would watch the progress of this endeavour with keen interest and assist it in all possible manners.

He thanked Dr. Nasseff for arranging to extend the facilities of Darul Ihsan Trust to Bangladesh and said his proposal to extend the facility of this institute to students from the SAARC countries was welcome.

The Institute now being housed temporarily in Dhanmondi Residential Area in the capital would be shifted to its own campus in Savar as soon as the construction work was completed.

The teaching and research based institute would be constructed at an estimated cost of about Taka 85 crore which included one three storied mosque, academic complex, training centre for teachers, residential hostels for students and residential quarters for the teaching staff.

The President unveiled the plaque and formally inaugurated the institute. He also saw the model of the Institute complex to be built on 13 acres.

Central Data Bank recommended

A presentation of the recommendations of the recently concluded national seminar on information technology applications in government and decentralised administration was held at the President's Secretariat in Dhaka on Thursday.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad chaired the presentation given by his advisor on Computers Dr M. Rafiquzzaman.

In the course of the presentation it was disclosed that the government was planning to make familiarisation technical training courses on computer to create an appropriate manpower base to handle increased computerisation in the country.

Principal Secretary to the President A.H. Sadique was present on the occasion.

The seminar on information technology suggested a national information technology plan and recommended introduction of master level, diploma