

ICTVTR a shining example: Ershad Glories ahead for Islamic Ummah

JOYDEVPUR, Aug. 31.—President Hussain Muhammed Ershad on Thursday expressed the hope that the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation 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, reports BSS.

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 certificate to 48 students from eleven 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, 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 members states have been show-

ing towards the centre, the institution cannot but grow from strength to strength" he said.

Excellence a goal

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.

Ershad

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"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 Ibne Sina, Ibne Khaldun, Abu Rusd and Al Farabi had not only held the torch of knowledge firmly but also burnt it brightly.

Industrial revolution

He said the industrial revolution in the west which had spurred progress could be retracted to the European Renaissance which would not have been possible without contributions by the Islamic scholars, scientists, doctors, astronomers, mathematicians, artists and writers.

The President cited the example of the excellence which was reached in those days by Muslim scientists on the earth's rotational movements, finding very delicate time lags in the planet's speed which only recently had been detected by high-resolution telescopes. Modern astronomers are awed by the accuracy of the mathematical calculation done by the Muslim scientists and it was proved correct by the present day super computers.

President Ershad said between now and the past there was a period when he had neglected science and technology and fallen behind. "We must now speed up our pace to fill up this gap", he added.

Fortunately, President Ershad said "we witness around the world [an Islamic revival]. He said the setting up of the OIC and its various organs was the first firm step by the Muslims for the restoration of the old glories.

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