

Khaleda urges youths to be equipped with more knowledge

GAZIPUR, Sept 21.—Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today asked the Muslim youths across the world to equip themselves with more knowledge and skill to meet the political, economic and social challenges now being faced by the Islamic countries, reports BSS.

"The Islamic countries are now facing unprecedented political, economic as well as social challenges. You (Muslim youths) are to respond in a meaningful way to meet these challenges," she told a gathering of academicians, scholars and students of the Islamic countries here.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the formal inauguration and the ninth congregation ceremony of the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) at its auditorium.

The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the organisation of the Islamic Conference, was upgraded and renamed today as Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT).

The upgradation of the Institute Begum Zia said would help develop the vast human resources of the member states and train technical manpower to the international standard needed for the industrial, economic and social development of the Islamic Ummah.

The Prime Minister conferred degrees and diplomas to the graduating students of 33 countries and distributed certificate among them on conclusion of their long regular courses.

See Page 12 Col. 4

Khaleda urges

From Page 1 Col. 8

The ninth Islamic conference of foreign ministers held in Dakar, Senegal in 1978 decided to establish the ICTVTR in Bangladesh.

Late President Ziaur Rahman had laid the foundation stone of the institute on 30 acres of land on March 27, 1981 in presence of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the then OIC Secretary General late Habib Chatty.

Chaired by OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid Al Gabid, the ceremony was addressed by director general of IIT Dr A.M. Patwari and chairman of the reception committee R.M. Hannan Siddique.

Ministers, members of the Governing Board, General Assembly Academic Committee and members of the staff and graduating students of IIT were present.

Earlier Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia entered the auditorium leading the academic procession.

The Prime Minister declared the formal inauguration of IIT and the ninth congregation ceremony. She also unveiled the plaque of the IIT and planted a sapling there.

The Prime Minister expressed her happiness that thirtythree member states have so far sent their students to this institute. "The high standard of the academic programmes of the institute had led to its such acceptability," she said.

She pointed out that the institute was also facilitating greater interaction among the Muslim youths of the world and thereby increasing sense of brotherhood and fellow feelings among them.

Begum Zia said "Islamic Institute of Technology belongs to us all. It is very dear to us". She said this institute was acting as a catalyst for human resources development of the OIC member states.

The OIC Secretary General in his speech underlined the need to intensify and strengthen the contacts of the OIC member states with the institute to acquaint themselves with its activities and to apprise it of their requirements.

Mr. Gabid said it is only with the active support and participation of the member states of the OIC that the institute can continue to play its important role in the socio-economic development of the countries within the Islamic Ummah.

Director General of IIT Dr. A.M. Patwari in his address appealed to all the member states of the OIC for regularly subscribing their mandatory contribution and clearing up their arrears and make generous donation to the IIT trust fund.