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PM addresses 10th congregation

IIT symbol of Islamic unity

GAZIPUR, Sept 10:— Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today (Tuesday) said the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) is playing a catalytic role for human resources development of the OIC member states, reports UNB.

"IIT is also one of the most glowing symbols of Islamic solidarity and joint Islamic action under the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)," she said at the 10th congregation ceremony of IIT on its campus at Gazipur in the morning.

In this institution, she said, students from different OIC member states not only obtain valuable engineering and technical education but also get the opportunity to interact with their fellow brothers from

Muslim states.

Hasina said the friendship and fellow-feeling developed in this institute over the years from solidarity among the younger generation of Islamic Ummah.

The Prime Minister participated in the academic procession wearing a deep blue gown and distributed diploma certificates among the graduating students of the institution.

A total of 188 students from different disciplines, including mechanical, electronic, electrical and automotive, received the certificates.

This year students from different Islamic countries, including Uganda, Cameroon, Jordan, Pakistan, Maldives, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Niger

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IIT symbol

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Somalia and Senegal have completed their graduation from the institute.

OIC secretary general Hamid Algabid and IIT director general Prof AM Patwari also addressed the function.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and State Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan were present.

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"I believe you are aware that the Islamic states are now in the face of political, economic and social challenges. The knowledge you have acquired will enable you to face the challenges."

Referring to OIC, she said the organisation has been functioning for the last 26 years on the basis of consensus. "The unifying factor behind its success is our great religion Islam, common culture and heritage," she added.

The Prime Minister hoped that the organisation will play a pioneering role to restore past glories of Islam, and take the Islamic states to new altitude of success and development through mutual cooperation.

Hasina recalled the contribution of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in taking Bangladesh to OIC in 1974.

As a result, the OIC has established this prestigious Institute of the Islamic Ummah in Bangladesh to serve the member states of OIC in the area of human resources development, she said.

She expressed satisfaction over the increase of the number of admission seeking students every year and decision for establishing Civil and Engineering Department by the Institute.

For further development of the Institute, she appealed to the OIC member states, specially the rich and affluent ones, to make voluntary contribution to IIT Trust Fund.

Responding to an appeal of the IIT Director General for being guarantee of loan for infrastructural development, including construction of a hall to be named after Bangabandhu, the Prime Minister agreed that the government would be the guarantee of the loan.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid said the Islamic Institute of Technology, one of the fruits of achievement of the OIC, has already completed the first phase of its infrastructural development and begun functioning in a satisfactory manner.

He thanked the Islamic Development Bank for its initiative to contribute to the development of the institute's academic facilities so as to increase its capacity to 900 students.

Gabid said the students of the institution should always remember that the Muslim Ummah is faced with major challenges upheavals on the international scene.

"They will have to strive and persevere to bring their contribution in the search for adequate solutions," he added.