Ershad urges OIC to help enlarge ICTVTR's horizon

JOYDEVPUR (Dhaka), Aug 31 (BSS) : President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today 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.

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 certificates 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 and Minister for Education Sheikh Shahidul Islam.

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.

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 Rushd and Al Farabi had not only held the torch of knowledge firmly but also burnt it brightly.

President Ershad said between now and the past there was a period when we 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.

President Ershad said he

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was very pleased to know that the 18th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers had asked the ICTVTR to upgrade and intensify its training programme to meet the changing engineering and technological needs of the Muslim countries.

He also noted with satisfaction that the Standing Committee for Science and Technology of the OIC headed by President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in its last meeting urged the centre to extend the three-year higher diploma in engineering programme into four-year degree in engineering programme.

The President further noted that the Board of Directors of ICTVTR in its last meeting decided to offer Bachelor degrees in vocational education and technical education apart from offering new technologies like energy technology, computer aided manufacturing technology and medical electronics as specialisation for higher diploma in engineering programmes.

Earlier, on his way to Joydevpur President Ershad was greeted by people including children and students who stood in line on both sides of the road.