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Zia inaugurates bicentennial function of Madrashah-i-Alia

Muslim world can achieve progress thru cooperation

By A Staff Reporter

President Ziaur Rahman on Thursday said that the Muslim world could march towards progress through greater mutual cooperation, united efforts and brotherly feeling among Muslim countries.

The President was addressing the inaugural function of the four-day bicentennial founding anniversary of Madrashah-i-Alia at the Madrasha premises in Dacca. Presided over by Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, who is also the Chairman of the Bicentennial Celebration Committee, the inaugural function was addressed by Secretary-General of World Muslim League Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al-Harkan, Dr Abdullah Abdul Mohsin at-Tuki, Vice-Chancellor of Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University, Dr Mohammad Selim, Convener of the reception committee and Moulana Mohammad Yusuf Sharif, Principal of the Madrashah.

Ministers, members of the

diplomatic corps and a large number of 'ulema' and students of the Madrashah attended the function.

COMMON GOAL

The President stressed the need for evolving a coordinated education system reflecting Islamic spirit for achieving the common goal of the Muslim world. He said that madrashahs could play a significant role in consolidating our existing deep religious and cultural ties with other Muslim countries through exchange of ideas and thoughts.

President Ziaur Rahman said that Islam was a religion of peace and progress and advised the 'ulema' community to keep themselves abreast of the advancement of knowledge and science. For that reason, he said, the madrashah education must be made suitable to the needs of the age for the progress of the country.

The President said that we must uphold the rich tradition of ours and in the light of our religion and ethics we should utilise science and technology for the prosperity and development of the nation. He said that time had come to devote to the task of protecting the human values from erosion in the light of Islamic education and culture. He expressed his confidence that the Madrashah-i-Alia would play a pioneering role in this regard.

Recalling the glorious past

and the traditions of the Madrashah-i-Alia and its students, the President said that at this critical juncture of the nation 'ulema' would continue to work with the same zeal and spirit in the greater national interest. He hoped that they would play the same glorious role as they had done in the past keeping in view the interest of the development of a sovereign and independent nation.

DISTINCTIVE ROLE

President Ziaur Rahman said that the nation would always remember with gratitude the distinctive role of the Madrashah-i-Alia in the growth of national consciousness, religious awakening and providing a sense of direction.

He said that the madrashah, which was founded 200 years ago, had produced countless 'ulema'. The history of the institution was also inseparably linked with the country's mass education, he said.

The President hoped that the institution would keep up its efforts for producing worthy citizens for the country.

SHAH AZIZ

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman stressed the need for inclusion of science and technology in the madrashah curricula keeping in view the requirement of the modern age.

The Prime Minister called for

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Muslim world

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learning Arabic language and literature to help communication among the Muslims.

He said that the Government was making liberal contributions to the development of madrashah education in the country. He said that at present there were two thousand madrashahs in Bangladesh and the Government had taken steps to recast their curricula keeping in line with the demands of the present age of science and technology.

MOHSIN AT-TUKI

Dr Abdullah Abdul Mohsin at-Tuki called for integration of the education system in the Muslim countries. He said that the Muslim countries should cooperate with each other for their mutual benefit.

Dr at-Tuki said that Saudi Arabia was keen on helping the Muslim countries in different fields including their economic development. He expressed his gratitude to the Government and the people of Bangladesh for taking step to introduce an education system based on principles of Islam.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali al-Harkan said that the world Muslim League would continue to help the preservation and establishment of mosques in different countries. He said that his organisation had taken steps to translate the holy Quran in different languages for distribution in various countries.

He said that the enemies of Islam were trying to divide the Muslims and create confusion among them. He said that his organisation was determined to resist these moves of the misers of the Muslims.