



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributing gold medals and certificates among the students at the 16th convocation-ceremony of Islamic University of Technology on Wednesday in Gazipur.

IUT Convocation Ceremony '2002 held

Khaleda urges OIC members to give more assistance

GAZIPUR, Oct. 30:—Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today made a fervent appeal to the OIC member countries for more generous assistance and cooperation for the development of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), reports UNB.

Cooperation and efforts of all concerned would turn the IUT into a most modern educational institution, she hoped while addressing the 16th Convocation Ceremony-2002 of IUT, a subsidiary organ of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The IUT was established in 1981 at Gazipur on 30 acres of land donated by the Government of Bangladesh.

Presided over by IUT Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Anwar Hossain, the function was attended, among others, by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk and State Minister for Labour and Employment M Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad.

OIC Assistant Secretary General Khalid Saleem read out a message from the OIC Secretary General and IUT Chancellor, Dr Abdelouahed Belkeziz, on the occasion.

Ministers, MPs, PM's Political

Secretary Mosaddek Ali and senior-civil and military officials attended the function.

The Prime Minister conferred the degrees to the graduates and gave away OIC and IUT Gold Medals to four graduates.

Baba Hamadou of Cameroon received IUT Gold Medal for excellence in Technical Education, Khondokar Habibul Kabir of Bangladesh in Electric and Electronic Engineering and Fahim Kawsar of Bangladesh in Computer Science and Information Technology.

Md Rajib Ul Alam, also of Bangladesh, was awarded OIC Gold Medal for his extra-ordinary result in Mechanical Engineering.

The Prime Minister, in her speech, recalled the golden era of human civilization when the Muslim scientists presented the world with new sets of knowledge in the fields of medicine, mathematics, chemistry and astronomy that took the civilization to new heights.

She, however, lamented that this advancement slowed down in course of time and said that now the onus of revitalizing the Muslim heritage in science, arts and philosophy lies with the OIC.

"IUT can emerge as a torch-

bearer in achieving this noble objective," she added.

She hoped that this institute would emerge as a unique centre of excellence in higher education and research, and with unstinted support from OIC, would be able to play an intensified role in shaping a knowledge-based society of the Islamic Ummah.

Begum Zia expressed satisfaction at the IUT's plan to admit female students into various programmes and said this initiative was in line with her government's policy for widening educational opportunities for women.

She mentioned that Muslim women held responsible positions in various fields during the rise of Islamic civilization. She hoped that the IUT would be in a position to empower the Muslim women to assume greater responsibilities within the Islamic Ummah.

The Prime Minister appreciated the role of IUT in grooming skilled and talented manpower in engineering and technology in the Muslim countries and the Islamic Ummah.

Begum Zia also expressed her happiness to know that the demand for IUT graduates in the job market has been steadily rising.