

Restore past glory of Muslims

CA urges Islamic nations

UNB, Gazipur

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday urged the Islamic countries to work hard to restore the past glory of Muslims in science and technology, noting that no OIC nation is now technologically advanced.

The CA's call came at the 21st convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT), a subsidiary of Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), at the IUT auditorium on the outskirts of the capital.

Fakhruddin said the arrival of Islam some fourteen hundred years ago transformed the world civilisation as Muslim scholars enriched different branches of science and technology during the golden era of Islamic civilisation.

Recalling their immense contributions to mathematics, chemistry, medicine, physics, architecture, arts and philosophy, he said the renaissance in Europe owes much to the enlightened minds of Islamic scholars.

"Sadly, Muslims have not always lived up to that glorious heritage," he regretted.

Noting that the technological revolution of recent years has dramatically changed the lifestyle of people across the globe, the CA said the march of technology is also accelerating the process of globalisation, making markets more competitive, which warrants

that the Muslim countries continuously update their technological know-how and acquire, adapt and apply necessary skills efficiently and effectively in a bid to remain competitive.

"Islamic countries must devote more resources, time and effort to set up and run world-class educational institutions, universities and R&D establishments in order to transform themselves into truly knowledge-based societies", he said adding that OIC member states currently spend less than a half percent of their GDP on research

"We in Bangladesh remain fully prepared to provide all possible help and assistance in these areas".

Describing the bond of friendship that the students have developed in the Islamic brotherhood as a lifetime tie, the CA said, "I'm confident you'll be able to make far-reaching contributions in enhancing effective exchange of knowledge and skills and at the same time consolidate the existing unity of the OIC countries."

He said the main objective of the IUT is to blossom into a centre of excellence to cater to the socio-economic needs of the OIC member states and that the IUT still has a long way to go to occupy a position of honour among the globally ranked universities.

IUT Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Fazli Ilahi gave the welcome address while Director General of OIC Dr Razib bin Mohd Nordin read out the speech of OIC Secretary General Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, also the IUT chancellor, at the function.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed distributes certificates among the successful graduates at the 21st convocation of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) at its auditorium in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

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DIALOGUE WITH EC AL body prepares draft proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has expressed concern over the application of the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) to the trial process against former prime minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina.

In a resolution adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 181st session in Geneva recently, it said the cases against Hasina were registered or brought under the EPR 2007 instead of the Criminal Code for the purpose of preventing her from engaging in political activity, since the EPR provide for a blanket denial of bail, and "possibly from contesting elections."

The IPU requested the caretaker government to provide official information about the judicial proceedings against Hasina and why the EPR are applied in these cases.

It has requested the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to continue examining this case and report to it at its next session, to be held on the occasion of the 118th Assembly of the IPU in Cape Town in April 2008.

The IPU also deeply regretted that three years after the grenade attack on Hasina, no tangible results have been achieved regarding identification either of the perpetrators or of the masterminds of this crime.

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