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## Mahathir urges Muslims to turn to science and technology

Former Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad yesterday said that the Muslim world should have better knowledge in science and technology to protect themselves from the aggressors of the world, reports UNB.

"Today the Muslims and their countries are in terrible state. They are being occupied by foreigners, they are attacked and invaded," he said.

He was speaking at the second convocation of University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) as convocation speaker at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the city.

President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, presided over the convocation ceremony.

Nearly 6,000 students were conferred graduate and post graduate degrees from different disciplines while six students received gold medals for their outstanding academic results.

He went on "We need knowledge if we want to defend ourselves. Muslims don't want to be aggressive. We have no ambition to conquer the world but we have the right to defend ourselves and our religion."

Mentioning that over the 500 years the Muslim Ummah has neglected this field of knowledge, Mahathir said that "It is true that we must know our religion. But it is not true that we should only focus on the study of our religion."

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, UITS board of trustees chairman Sufi Mohamed Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and UITS VC Dr Mohammad Samad spoke on the occasion.

Meanwhile Dr Mahathir Mohamad highly praised the recent development activities in Bangladesh during the AL-led government.

Dr Mahathir came up with his observations when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganobhaban.

PM's special assistant Mahbubul Hoque Shakil briefed reporters after the meeting.