



## Shahid leaves for Pakistan to join OIC meet

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Minister for Education, Scientific and Technological Affairs, left Dhaka on Thursday evening for Islamabad at the head of a five-member Bangladesh delegation to attend the fourth ministerial level meeting of the OIC standing Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation (COMSTECH), reports BSS.

Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who is also chairman of the standing committee of the Comstech, will inaugurate the three-day meeting on May 13. Ministerial level delegations from the 46 member countries of the OIC are expected to attend the meetings.

In a statement on the eve of departure, Sheikh Shahid said Bangladesh would plead for evolving a policy for increased cooperation and exchange of Science and Technological knowledge among the OIC countries.

As an active member of the OIC, Bangladesh would also play its definite role in further consolidating the unity of the Muslim Ummah and improving the socio-economic condition of the Muslims throughout the world.

Sheikh Shahid said he would apprise the member states of the OIC about the national, regional and international efforts taken by President Ershad for finding solution to the problems of floods droughts and environmental hazards and increasing food production and industrial development in Bangladesh. He would also seek cooperation and assistance from the OIC countries in this respect.

The Comstech meeting will discuss matters relating to cooperation among the OIC countries in the field of science and technology. It will review the work done and initiative taken so far by the committee as per its mandate. It will also discuss the implementation of the science and technology plan of action earlier approved by the 4th OIC summit held at Casablanca in 1984.

The committee will also approve its biennial budget for 1989 and 1990.

Sheikh Shahid hoped that the Comstech meeting would be fruitful in enhancing cooperation among the member countries in the field of science and technology.

Besides attending the Comstech meeting, the leader of Bangladesh delegation would held bilateral talks with government leaders of Pakistan on matters of mutual interests.

Sheikh Shahid will visit the Allama Iqbal Open University in Islamabad in connection with the establishment of the proposed open university in Bangladesh.

Other members of the delegation are: Joint Secretary of the Education Ministry, Mr. Nuruddin M. Kamal, Bangladesh High Commissioner, in Pakistan, C.M. Shafi Sami, Director of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Iftekhâr Karim and Counsellor in Bangladesh Mission, in Pakistan, Mr. Afsarul Kadiri.

Sheikh Shahid is expected to return home on May 16.