

Islamic Centre to start functioning by July, '83

By A Staff Reporter

The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), Dacca will start operation by July, 1983.

This was stated by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Centre Mr. A. B. S. Safdar at a press conference at the State Guest House on Monday. The press conference was held after the conclusion of the four-day second meeting of the Board of Directors of the Centre.

Mr. Safdar said that operational function of the 10-million-dollar centre may be brought earlier as desired by President Ziaur Rahman. Ten of the 12 member states to the Board of Directors of the centre attended the meeting which reviewed among other things the donation position and selection of an architect for the project.

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may be mentioned here that Dr. Rafiquddin Ahmed of Bangladesh had been appointed director of the centre for a four-year term.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in August 1980 while the General Assembly of the centre comprising all the 42 members of Islamic World will be held in December 1980 to review the progress of work he said.

Replying to a question Mr. Safdar said that the total roll strength of the centre would be 650. The medium of instructions would be English, French and Arabic, all the students would be given scholarship and free passage he said.

The participants of the board meeting were from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, U.A.E. representatives of Senegal and Gambia, two other members of the 10-member board could not attend the meeting. Besides representative of the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Dr. Asraf-Uz-Zaman and Director of the Centre Dr. Rafiquddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

Mr. Safdar said that the Saudi government donated two million dollars for the centre of which the cheque for one million dollar was handed over to the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The amount was earlier announced at the 9th and 10th Islamic foreign ministers' conference.

Mr. Safdar said that the centre had at present 2.43 million dollars in cash and kind which included one million dollar donation from Saudi Arabia, procurement of 30 acres of land near Joydevpur, Dacca worth 1.116 million dollars and cash 0.313 million dollars for land development contributed by the Government of Bangladesh.

The Chairman said that the meeting discussed among other things, training schedule of the centre, work programme for 1979-80 and budget for 1980-81.

Mr. Safdar said that the board appointed Mr. Mehmet Doruk Pamir of Turkey as the architect of the project. It

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