

Islamic Centre foundation will be laid Mar 27

The foundation stone of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), will be laid by President Ziaur Rahman on March 27, reports BSS.

Secretary-General of the OIC Mr. Habib Chatty and representatives of the member countries are expected to attend the foundation laying ceremony at the centre's site at Joydevpur.

Talking to newsmen, Director of ICTVTR, Dr. Rafiquddin Ahmed, said that the construction work of the centre would go on in full swing if funds were available from the donor countries. The centre is scheduled to be inaugurated by 1983.

He said the first consultative meeting of the national experts on curriculum design and staff development, will be held in Dacca from March 17 to 19. Participants from almost all member countries and important international organisations will attend the meeting, he added.

The first meeting of the consultative body would have threaddbare discussions on the curriculum of the centre which is expected to be one of the important and "ideal technical institutions" in the Muslim world. Dr. Ahmed who gave an elaborate idea about the possible curriculum of the centre, said that the institution would have training facilities for teachers, besides the most modern and effective technical curri-

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culum for students. The centre he said, would be able to meet the growing need of the member countries in the fields of technology and craftsmanships.

He said the recommendations of the first consultative body meeting on curriculum and staff development would go to the Board of Directors who are going to meet in the current month in Dacca. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary-General of OIC will give a keynote speech in the meeting, the Director said. The countries which are the members of the Board of Directors, are Bangladesh, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Libya, Turkey, Senegal and Gambia.

Dr. Ahmed also said that the curriculum and staff development recommendations would be finally approved by the Foreign Ministers conference of the Islamic countries which is scheduled to be held in Baghdad in May next.

The objectives of the centre, he said, are to train instructors, technicians and tradesmen in technologies and trades in accordance with the need of the 42 member states located in Africa and Asia and to upgrade the mid and lower level manpower to international standard. The centre would also go for conducting research on the requirement of technical and vocational education. It will initiate, promote and guide technological and industrial research having a bearing on problems connected with the development of manpower and vocational education.

He said the centre, which would uphold Islamic culture, tradition and ideals, would also promote technical cooperation, exchange technical knowledge and disseminate basic information in the field of development of human resources. It would also ensure coordination between aims and objectives of centre with national vocational and technical training centres in the member states, he added.

The centre is expected to have 10 training courses in 10 technologies and 10 trades in the first phase. Training capacity of the centre would be 650 and the media of instructions will be Arabic, English and French.

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