



A section of the audience at the inaugural session of the bicentennial celebration of the Madrasah-i-Alia, Dacca on Thursday.—Times.



Rabeta-e-Alam-e-Al Islam Secretary General Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al-Harkan called on Vice-President Justice Abdus Sattar in Dacca on Thursday.—Photo PID.

Harkan lauds Zia's efforts for forging Islamic unity

The Rabeta-e-Alam-e-Islami delegation led by its Secretary General Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al-Harkan called on the Vice-President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar at the Secretariat on Thursday morning, reports BSS.

The Secretary General in course of the meeting paid tribute to the efforts of President Ziaur Rahman in forging solidarity and unity of the Islamic world. The Rabeta-e-Alam-e-Islami gives special attention to Bangladesh he said adding that many such visits by the members of the organisation would help foster closer relationship between the Rabeta and Bangladesh.

Reciprocating the sentiments the Vice-President said that our country under the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman was totally committed to the cause of Islam. He said

Saudi Arabia had always occupied a very special place in the hearts of the Muslims of Bangladesh.

The Vice-President thanked the Saudi Government for their help particularly in the field of Islam 'we are grateful for donating us one lakh fifty thousand copies of the Holy Qur'an through the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia on behalf of Rabeta-e-Alam-e-Islami', he said.

The Vice President thanked the delegation for visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of President Ziaur Rahman.

MEETS PM

Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al-Harkan called on Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman at his office on Thursday.

The Secretary General stayed with the Prime Minister for some time and discussed matters of mutual interests strengthening Islamic fraternity and the activities of the Rabeta in Muslim countries.

The Prime Minister appreciating the constructive activities of the Rabeta said that the visit of the Secretary General of the Rabeta-e-Alam-e-Islami to Bangladesh had further stimulated Islamic brotherhood.

JAMAL UDDIN

The visiting Secretary General of the Rabeta-e-Alam-e-Islam had a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Jamal Uddin Ahmed at the State Guest House Dacca on Thursday.

Islamic unity

During the meeting that lasted about two hours both sides discussed various activities undertaken by the Bangladesh government for promoting the cause of Islam and brotherhood among the Muslim nations.

After the talks Mr Ahmed told BSS that the visiting Secretary General was apprised of the different projects and programmes of the government in which he had shown keen interest.

Mr Ahmed said besides this meeting which was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere they would have further meetings during the stay of the delegation here.

He said the development efforts of the government particularly the setting up of an Islamic University training of Imams expansion of the Baitul Mukarram mosques mosque-based libraries centre for Islamic culture and research and the like drew special attention of the delegation members.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the delegation had assured him of its fullest co-operation and assistance for the implementation of the various programmes. He said the delegation was very much impressed with the Islamic activities being carried out by the Bangladesh government under the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman.

Religious Minister Mr Abdur Rahman Sports Culture and Religious Secretary Mr Siddiquur Rahman Additional Foreign Secretary Mr Abdul Bari attended the meeting.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al-Harkan was assisted by Mr Mohammad Assagga Amini Assistant Secretary General Mr Adnan Khadil Basha Director General Mr Yahya Ahmed Mottahid a director of Rabeta and the Saudi Ambassador in Bang

ladesh Sheikh Fouad Abdul Hameed Al-Khaleeb.

PROF HUQ

The Rabeta Secretary General also called on Foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Huq at the Foreign Office.

The Secretary General lauded the important role played by Bangladesh under the leadership of President Ziaur Rahman in serving the cause of Islam by strengthening unity and solidarity among the Islamic countries.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister and Sheikh Harkan also exchanged views on matters of concern to the Islamic world including the need for close co-operation among the Islamic countries in economic and other fields.