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Free flow of news among OIC states planned

Information Minister Mahbubur Rahman who led a five-member Bangladesh delegation to the first information ministers conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, returned in Dhaka on Friday, says BSS.

The Minister and on his return at the Zia International Airport that the meeting took several significant decisions and an action plan with regard to dissemination of news and free flow of information among the OIC member countries.

He said the custodian of the two holy mosques, Saudi King Fahd, took immense interest in the conference making it a success.

Mr. Rahman said King Fahd, who inaugurated the conference, made an important speech assuring his total support and patronage in implementing the decision of the conference.

Mr. Mahbubur Rahman said the King in course of his speech clearly expressed that he stood for the welfare, promotion and protection of entire Islamic ummah and not only for his country or a particular sect.

The King regretted the absence of Iran in the conference and hoped that presence of Iran would be witnessed in future like all other member countries, Mr. Rahman said.

He said all the ministers and leaders of the delegations enquired about the welfare of the people of Bangladesh with reference to recent flood and colossal damage caused by it.

Bangladesh was found to be a Muslim country loved and respected by other Muslim countries and there was a sympathy wave in favour of Bangladesh for not only immediate rehabilitation and reconstruction

See Page 8 Col. 3

OIC

From Page 1 Col. 5

but for providing a permanent solution to the flood problem," the Minister observed.

The conference constituted a follow up committee to regularly monitor the decisions and review the progress which included training of mediemen, exchange of their visits, preference to news received from the national news agencies of the OIC member countries and revitalisation of the international Islamic News Agency (IINA) and Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO).

The Information Minister said that the conference accepted to examine an important proposal for setting up of "Islami vision" for exchange of TV news among the member countries in line with Asia Vision and Euro Vision.

Malaysia, which mooted the idea, will submit a technical report in this regard, he said.

There was a number of decisions taken at the conference with regard to plan and strategy for greater flow of information among the member countries and objecting reporting and broadcasting with a view to combating motivated and baseless propoganda by anti-Islamic forces.

Referring to his brief audience with King Fahd, the Minister said he (Minister), conveyed to him thanks and gratitude of President Ershad and people of Bangladesh for his message of sympathy and material support for the flood-hit people.

The Minister also reminded him of the invitation extended to him by President Ershad to visit Bangladesh. The King expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

The other members of the delegation were Major General (Retd) Kazi Ghulam Dastagir, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Saiful Bari, Chairman, National Broadcasting Authority, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and Mr. Moazzem Ali, Bangladesh Consul General Jeddah.

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