

Eid-e-Miladunnabi on April 1

UNB, Dhaka

The government has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi on April 1. The programmes were finalised at a meeting of the Ministry of Religious Affairs with Religious Adviser Maj Gen (retd) ASM Matiur Rahman in the chair yesterday. The programmes included hoisting of national flag atop government, non-government buildings, publishing supplements in the newspapers, displaying banners inscribed with Kalema Taiyeba at important government buildings, establishments and roads, illumination of government and military establishments, arranging milad mahfil and prayers at the Secretariat and Bangabhaban mosques. Besides, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs would arrange cultural programmes in cultural and educational institutions. Islamic Foundation will arrange meetings, seminars and competitions under its two-week programme, and provide improved diets to hospitals, prisons, orphanages and child homes. Religious Affairs Secretary Mohammad Aatur Rahman, DG of Bangladesh Betar Mahbubul Alam and Joint Secretary of Religious Affairs Ministry Chowdhury M Ziaul Haq were present at the meeting.

ACC should appoint experienced officials

Says Shujan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan) wants the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to appoint officials with experiences of dealing with financial corruption in different sectors. "We are not happy about the ACC officials who have been deputed from the Ministry of Establishment," Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad told reporters after a meeting with ACC Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday. Honest police officials should be appointed as investigation officers at the ACC, he said. It is not enough to only prepare the lists of corruptionists, Prof Muzaffer said, adding that the culprits should also be punished. "The ACC should also be careful so that innocent

people are not harassed." "We want to cooperate in the war against corruption across the country," he said. Shujan leaders M Hafizuddin Khan, ASM Shahjahan, Badiul Alam Majumder and Sharmin Murshid were present at the meeting. Meanwhile, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Deputy Director General for South Asia Department Sultan Hafeez Rahman also had a meeting with the ACC chairman. The ADB official, who arrived in Bangladesh yesterday on a weeklong visit, told reporters after the meeting that they had talks on reforms of governance. He also said that they are very much engaged in governance reforms in Bangladesh. ADB Country Director Hua Du was also present at the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Rokeya Kabir speaks at a press conference on 'Saarc and Peace and Security in South Asia' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right are Jadav Chandra Saha and Nadira Malik while on her left are Sharif A Kafi and Sayeda Monira.

'Form S Asian Peace Commission'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the heads of the governments of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries to form a 'South Asia Peace Commission'. Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) and South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (BDPC) jointly organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city ahead of the 14th Saarc summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi from April 3 to 4. While reading out a written statement, BDPC Executive Director Sharif A Kafi said a 'South Asia Peace Commission' should be founded in the interest of peace and security in South Asian countries in eradicating poverty, and ending arms conflict and smuggling of illegal weapons. Sharif also asked for immediate steps to stop the competition and expansion of nuclear weapons in South Asia and to make it a nuclear war free region. The speakers also suggested that the South Asian countries should sign UN

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Speaking on the occasion, Nari Pragoti Sangha Executive Director Rokeya Kabir said if the money spent in arms industry is utilised in education, health, technology and economy, progress will take place gradually accelerating peace process. SAAPE Communication Officer Sayeda Monira, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Executive Director Jadav Chandra Saha and SAAPE Project Director Nadira Malik were also present at the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Part of a corridor on the first floor of Chittagong court building has caved in long ago, posing danger to people crossing the corridor.

NDC team visits BRRI

A team of 46 members from National Defence College (NDC) visited Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) in Gazipur yesterday, says a press release. BRRI Director General Dr Md Nur-E-Elahi briefed them about ongoing research activities of the institute and its role in ensuring food security. The visiting team was comprised of senior civil and military officials from China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Sudan as well as Bangladesh. They expressed satisfaction over enormous success of BRRI and its contribution to agricultural development. BRRI Director General presented a crest to Senior Directing Staff of the visiting team Md Nazmul Huda Khan.