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## Obama regrets Islam's distortion

### Calls for isolating extremists who twist the 'great religion' to justify violence

AGENCIES, Mumbai

US President Barack Obama has regretted that the "great religion" of Islam has been distorted by a few extremists to justify violence towards innocent people and called for isolating these elements.

"I think all of us have to fundamentally reject the notion that violence is the way to mediate our differences," said the US president yesterday.

He made the remark after a Muslim student, A Ansari, lobbied a question asking for his views on "jihad" during his interaction with students of St Xavier's college in the Indian city of Mumbai.

He was in the India's business capital on the second day of a 10-day Asian tour designed to boost US exports and create jobs.

"I think all of us recognise that this great

religion [Islam] in the hands of a few extremists has been distorted to justify violence towards innocent people that is never justified," he said.

"So, one of the challenges the world faces is how to "isolate" those who have these distorted notions of religious war...and reaffirm those who see faces of all sorts whether you are a Hindu or a Muslim or a Christian and a Jew or any other religion that we can all treat each other with respect and mutual dignity," Obama said.

He said the phrase "Jihad" has different interpretations. Islam is one of the great religions and majority of its one billion practices believe in peace, justice and tolerance.

The US president said the existence of diverse religious beliefs is a "major challenge" not only in India but also around the world.

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US President Barack Obama bends down to shake hands with a child as he tours through Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi yesterday. Obama arrived in New Delhi with the ink drying on freshly signed business deals that he hopes could help kick-start the struggling US economy.

PHOTO: AFP

## Eid-ul-Azha on Nov 17

UNB, Dhaka

Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated on November 17 as the Zilhaj moon was sighted yesterday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee meeting yesterday evening announced that the Zilhaj moon was sighted in Bangladesh. Hence, the Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated on November 17 (Wednesday).

State Minister for Religious Affairs

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## Khaleda warns against giving transit to India

### Says no foreign vehicles will be allowed to use Bangladesh territory; asks govt to scrap all recent deals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding cancellation of the recently-signed deals with India, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said no foreign vehicles would be allowed to use Bangladesh territory.

"Earlier, they [government] said Bangladesh will be Singapore and crores of taka will be earned. But now we hear India will not pay any duty against transit facilities," she told a rally organised to mark the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day".

Also leader of the opposition, Khaleda asked the government to scrap immediately the "transit deal" with the neighbouring country. She said she would resist the government's anti-state activities even if it costs her her life.

BNP activists turned up in droves to attend the rally in front of the party's Nayapaltn headquarters in the capital.

Carrying banners, festoons and portraits of Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman,

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

## Govt doing cost-benefit analysis

TRANSIT-TRANSHIPMENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is doing a cost-benefit analysis of giving transit and transhipment facilities to India, Nepal and Bhutan under regional cooperation, and will take a decision in this regard in two months.

And the experience of other countries in allowing similar facilities is being taken into consideration in carrying out the analysis.

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## 7,000MW more power in 3yrs

### PM tells Comilla public meeting

UNB, Comilla

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said additional 7,000 megawatt (MW) electricity will be generated by 2013 by setting up new power plants in the country.

"We'll be able to add 7,000MW additional electricity to the national grid by 2013," she said while addressing a public meeting at Titas Upazila Parishad field, organised by Comilla district (north) Awami League.

The premier said every year the generation of electricity will be increasing and there would be no crisis of electricity in future.

After taking over power, the present government started setting up some 30 power plants and already construction works on three power plants have been completed, she said.

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## Yunus clarifies his views on govt's role

SOCIAL BUSINESS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus has made a clarification regarding his views on the role of government in social business as appeared in a UNB report The Daily Star ran on Saturday under the headline, "Professor Yunus against govt's in social business."

Prof Yunus said his position on the role of government is different from what was portrayed in the report. He had always said the government

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



## High-rise tilts in city

### 2 more multi-storey buildings in danger; around 100 families evacuated at night

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-storey building awaiting the finishing touch tilted on another 17-storey high-rise last night wreaking havoc among 100 families in nearby houses at Kathalbagan in the capital.

A crack developed in the 17-storey Nasir Tower after the seven-storey structure tipped onto it putting another ten-storey building in imminent danger.

Fire-fighters with the help of law enforcers started evacuating people from nearby buildings of Free School Street at about 2:00am fearing the tilted building might collapse any moment.

Brig Gen Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told reporters early today, "The developer did not follow the Building Code and constructed the high-rise filling up a big pond here."

However, Md Haider Ali, the owner of the Haider-Asian Tower, told The Daily Star over the phone that the building was constructed in compliance with the building code.

"I followed all the rules. The soil was tested before the construction of the building," he claimed.

When asked how the building tilted, if it was constructed in line with the rules, Haider said, "Only God knows how it happened."

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Domino effect takes place from a seven-storey building in Kanthalbagan, Dhaka after it tilts on an adjacent 17-storey building making the second one tips onto another 10-storey residential unit. The incident happened when a pillar in the basement of the seven-storey building collapsed last night.

## NOC for toxic ships Shipping Dept officials asked to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon two shipping department high officials to explain within two weeks why they should not be punished for

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