

# Stand against trade on Islam

## Hasina urges imams

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the imams (religious leaders) to keep conscious so nobody can mislead people through misinterpretation of the religion.

"The masses turn to you (imams) to get the interpretation of the Quran and Hadith. I request you all to remain alert so that people who trade on religion cannot mislead the innocent people and engage them in terrorism and militancy," she said.

The premier made the call at the inaugural ceremony of "National conference of the trained imams" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

She said Islam is the religion of peace and Bangladesh is the place for religious harmony, where people have been living for thousands of years peacefully.

"There is no room for terrorist activities in Islam. But militants are created in the name of Islam. Islam is always against terrorism, killing, and suicide."

This stains Islam, she said, adding that why the religion of peace will suffer for some misguided people. Hasina said terrorists are terrorists wherever they live.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Shahjahan Miah chaired the function addressed also by secretary of the ministry Qazi Habibul Awal, Unicef Country Representative Carrel de Roy, and Islamic Foundation Director General Shamim Mohammad Afzal.

Termining the imams the leaders of the society, Hasina requested them to bring positive change in the society through motivating the people against all forms of terrorism and militancy.

She said Bangladesh is known to the international community as the most peaceful nation for its religious education and cultural tradition. It should be maintained at any cost, she urged.

Imams have acquired knowledge on poverty alleviation, agriculture, prevention of corruption, stopping of dowry, child marriage, and primary healthcare during their training courses along with religious knowledge, said the prime minister.

Hasina expressed her hope that they would use their knowledge for the development of the people in their respective areas.

The premier said the government made religious education mandatory at the secondary level so that the students can gain real knowledge of religion.

The new education policy was adopted with more importance on madrasa education to keep it up with time and religious and moral education was included in the new policy, she said.

She also mentioned that the government adopted the National Hajj Policy 2010 and a record 91,770 pilgrims performed hajj last year.



**PHOTO: STAR**  
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Dhaka district administration began an eviction drive along the bank of Buriganga near Mohammadpur in the city to recover the river from encroachers. (Story on Page 1)

# PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

## Zillur for int'l standard edn

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the private universities to ensure all infrastructural facilities to provide international standard higher education to students.

The president made the call when a delegation of University of Asia Pacific led by its Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patoari met him at Bangabhaban in the city.

Chairman of the board of trustees of the university, Eng M Abu Taher, and trustee member Qaiyum Reza Chowdhury accompanied the VC.

Emphasising the need for information and communication technology, Zillur said the private universities must have their full time teachers and own infrastructures, library, laboratory, and playground to ensure congenial atmosphere for quality education.

The president also asked the private universities to fix their tuition fees considering the socioeconomic aspects and create more opportunities for the poor students.

The delegation informed the president of the education curricula and the holistic development of academic activities in the university.

The delegation also told Zillur that foundation stone for own campus of the university will be laid in March over a three-bigha land in the capital's Green Road.

# School buses to ply on SSC exam days

BSS, Dhaka

The bus services for school students will continue on the Mirpur Section-12 to Azimpur route in the city on the days of the ongoing Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

The school buses will not run on other days until the SSC exams end because of the closure of most of the schools.

The SSC exams began on February 1 and will continue until March 10. The school buses will be running as usual after the SSC exams, said an official release.

# KOKO'S CASE

## 2 more witnesses testify

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more witnesses gave depositions against Arafat Rahman Koko, son of former premier Khaleda Zia, and Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of former shipping minister late Akbar Hossain, in a money-laundering case yesterday.

The witnesses are Salauddin Ahmed, former attorney general, and Brigadier General (ret'd) Khalequzzaman Lodhi, former counselor of Bangladesh High Commission in Washington DC. Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 recorded the statements of the witnesses and adjourned the court till March 28 for the next hearing.

# Two found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered two bodies from Uttarkhan and Ramna in the city last evening.

One of the dead is one Ashraf Ali Mallik, 50, a construction worker. The unidentified man is aged around 28.

Ramna police said they found Mallik's body hanging with a fan with a towel from his Noyatola residence around 6:00pm. Uttarkhan police recovered the body of the unidentified youth by the side of the river Turag around 5:30pm.

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Development Forum and other organisations form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding arrest and trial of rapist Mahbub, the fatwa issuers, and others responsible for the death of 14-year-old Hena Akter of Shariatpur.

# Youth 'kills' self jumping from Dhaka court roof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly committed suicide jumping from the rooftop of the eight-storey building of Dhaka district court in the capital yesterday.

Saidul Morsalin, 26, son of an advocate of the court Sirazul Islam, was declared dead at Mitford Hospital.

Saidul fell on the ground after hitting three advocates who were present on the court premises during the incident around 11:00am.

The injured advocates -- Aktar jahan Tara, Saiful Islam Chowdhury Kamal and Mamunur Rashid -- were taken to a nearby clinic.

Police suspected that Saidul has killed himself due to 'family problems'.

Sub-inspector Rakibul Haq of Kotwali Police Station said they found a 'suicide note'

in his pocket, in which he blamed his parents and uncle for his decision to commit suicide.

The SI quoted the note as saying, "Some people disturbed me, but you didn't care. So I am committing suicide."

Saidul's father Sirazul suspected that criminals killed his son and threw the body from the roof of the building. Saidul was missing since he left home Monday night, he said.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. The morgue sources said the victim died after falling on ground.

Asked about the suicide note, Sirazul said he heard about the note but did not believe his son could write it. There was no family problem, for which Saidul could commit suicide, he said.

No case was lodged in this connection till filing of this report at 5:30pm.

RAHIMAFROOZ

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by Mr Mel Broitman, Director, Canadian University Application Centre

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at our Dhaka CUAC office

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