

## Road link with Kuakata cut as bridge collapses in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A small bridge at Lebukhali Ferry ghat collapsed yesterday disconnecting Kuakata from the rest of the country.

Kamolendu Majumder, executive engineer of the Roads and Highways Department in Patuakhali, said they are working to repair the bridge to resume communications.

People have been requested to use alternative Patuakhali-Mirzaganj-Bakherganj road until the bridge is repaired.

## Ahmadiyyas gratitude awards to eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Bangladesh celebrated its 100th founding anniversary yesterday by presenting "gratitude awards" to 36 eminent citizens and nine social and rights based organisations and dailies for their contributions to the country.

Lawmakers Hasanul Haque Inu and Rashed Khan Menon, Dr Kamal Hossain, Sultana Kamal, Shahriar Kabir, Sara Hossain, Khushi Kabir and Asif Nazrul, who were presented the award, addressed the programme.

Poet Sufia Kamal, Justice KM Sobhan, National Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Language Movement veteran Gaziul Haque and journalist and writer Fayez Ahmed were posthumously awarded.

BLAST, Odhikar, Ain o Salish Kendra, Naripokkho, The Daily Star, New Age and Daily Sangbad also received the award.

An exhibition of translated versions of the Holy Quran in 74 languages was also organised at the ceremony in the capital's Bakshibazar.

## 9 Bangladeshis return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Nine Bangladeshi nationals returned home yesterday after serving eight years in an Indian jail.

Forkan, Bachchu, Anwar, Modhu, Masum, Razzak, Mozammel, Yer Ali, and Masud, were handed over to Bangladeshi immigration police by Indian BSF.

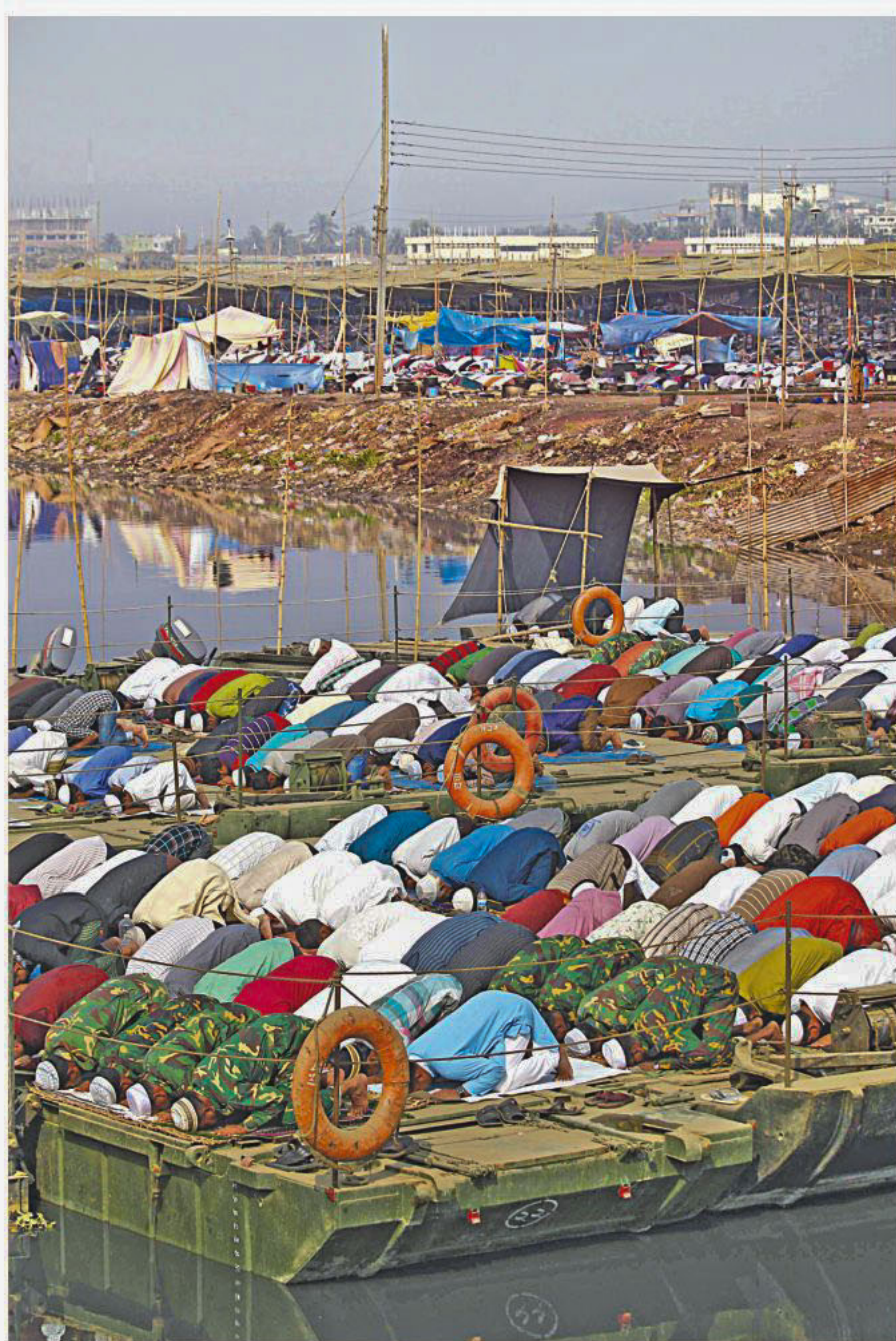


PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON  
Muslim devotees take part in Juma prayers yesterday, the first day of the second phase of Biswa Ijtema, on the banks of Turag in Tongi.

## 2ND PHASE OF IJTEMA BEGINS

# Lakhs join Juma prayers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second phase of Biswa Ijtema, the second largest Muslim congregation after hajj, began yesterday after the morning's Fazr prayers with a religious sermon by Indian Islamic scholar Moulana Md Ismail Hossain.

This is the third year that the Ijtema is being held in two phases on the banks of Turag in Tongi, around 20 kilometres off the capital, to enable smooth management and security checks.

The second phase will conclude tomorrow with final supplication -- Akheri Munajat. The first phase was held from January 11 to 13.

The venue turned into a sea of people as lakhs of devotees, including around 2,500 from 77 countries, arrived for yesterday's Juma prayers, led by Maulana Qwari Zobayer, imam of Kakrail mosque.

Like in the first phase, several hundred women arrived at the Ijtema grounds, renting adjoining houses and shops for a place to sit and take part in the prayers.

The gathering spilled over to adjoining areas with a huge number of devotees performing the prayers on the streets and many more on the roofs of buses and buildings because of a shortage of space on the 160-acre grounds.

Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway was halted for over one hour due to the devotees praying on the road.

Four devotees died of old age complications and cardiac arrest on Thursday.

They are Nazir Ahmed, 56, of Hossainpur in Comilla; Badhon Fakir, 70, of Tongipara of Gopalganj; Shamsul Haque, 70, of Sonadanga of Khulna; and Afzal Hossain, 60, of Bogra.

Over nine different organisations are providing free healthcare services by setting up medical camps near the Ijtema grounds.

Police, Rapid Action Battalion and intelligence agency members, in uniform and plainclothes, have set up a multi-layer security system to avoid any untoward incident.

Mobile courts of Gazipur district administration fined shop and restaurant owners Tk 64,000 and filed nine cases against them for selling adulterated food in unhygienic atmosphere.

The first phase was participated by devotees from 32 districts of the country along with around 25,000 foreigners from 89 countries including Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia and Palestine.

Tablig Jamaat has been organising the annual congregation, also called the World Muslims' Congregation. The first Ijtema was held in 1946 at Kakrail mosque near Ramna Park in the capital.

In 1966, the venue was shifted to Tongi due to an increased number of devotees.

The meet includes delivery of sermons on fundamental matters of Tablig, prayers for spiritual adulation, exaltation and welfare of the Muslim Ummah, and recitation from the holy Quran and Hadith.

## Math Olympiad regional round ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The regional round of 11th National Math Olympiad 2013 took place at a school in the capital yesterday.

Around 1,600 students from Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Dhaka participated in the competition's primary, junior, secondary and higher secondary categories.

Among the participants of the competition titled "11th Dutch Bangla Bank- Prothom Alo Math Olympiad", 81 were selected for the national round which will be held between February 8 and February 9 at Saint Joseph Higher Secondary School in Dhaka.

The organisers said 17 regional rounds will be held.

After a brief inaugural ceremony on BCSIR High School premises yesterday, the students sat for an exam over a span of an hour and 15 minutes to solve 10 problems.

The selected students were handed certificates, medals, tee shirts and invitation letter to the national round.

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice-chancellor of University of Asia Pacific, and Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo also were present.

## COLLEGE TEACHER ABDUCTION Four JU students expelled

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have expelled four students and suspended their studentship in connection with abducting a college lecturer.

They are Jabir Hossain of anthropology department; Safiq and Anisuzzaman Siddiqi of history department; Shahed Shah of philosophy department.

Rubel Islam, student of Dhaka College Islamic studies department, was also allegedly involved in the incident.

The five were put on a three-day police remand on Wednesday following a Dhaka court order on Tuesday.

The expulsion decision was taken at a meeting on Thursday afternoon, said JU Registrar Abu Bakkar Siddique.

A four-member probe committee, led by Prof Aminul Islam, was also formed to investigate the incident.

Sources said Md Ahsan Habib, a lecturer of Alhajj Selima Rahman Vocational College, Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha, was abducted allegedly by the five from the capital's Shikkha Bhaban on January 11.

Habib alleged Jabir confined him to Al Beruni and ASM Kamal Uddin halls of JU and, later, the five demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh from his wife.

On information from Habib's wife, Rab-4 arrested them on January 14 when the five came to Karotoya Courier Service in Savar to receive the money sent by the woman.

Later, Rab rescued Habib. During interrogation by Rab, the students alleged that the teacher borrowed the money from them for business purpose but did not paid in time.

The five were handed over to Savar Model Police Station on January 14.

### International Oncologist

## Prof. (Dr.) Santanu Chaudhuri

MBBS, DMRT, PGDHM, MD (Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai), DNB, M.Phil  
Ex. Director of R. S. T. Regional Cancer Hospital, Nagpur, India

### joined as Director

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Dr. (Prof.) Santanu Chaudhuri is an eminent internationally acclaimed cancer specialist. Until recently he was Director of R. S. T. Regional Cancer Hospital, Nagpur, India. He holds honorary Professorships in Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Lata Mangeshkar College, Punjabrao Deshmukh College and also part of the Visiting Professor Programme- University of Michigan, USA and Austin Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. He is also an UICC scholar.

He has done DMRT & MD from **Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai** and also worked there for almost 10 years. He also completed DNB degree from National Board of Education, Govt. of India. He obtained extensive experience in Research in Cancer during his tenure in Tata Memorial Hospital. He also did his PGDHM and MPhil. He is the Founder Patron of Snehaanchal Palliative Care Centre, Nagpur which is the only hospice for terminally ill cancer patients in Central India.

His work on tobacco related cancers has been highly acclaimed in World Cancer Congress 2006 in Washington DC, USA and was nominated as Member of Global Cancer Control Community, UICC, 2007 in Geneva for his contributions in field of Cancer.

He has been honored with several fellowships from U.K, Europe, Asia Pacific, Australia and U.S.A. He has several National & International publications & written many chapters in books related to Cancer Research and attended, Chaired, several National and International Conferences. He is also Steering Committee Member and Principal investigator of different projects of Department of Atomic Energy, Indian Compressive Cancer network, WHO and ICMR. He is also the past Vice President of Association of Radiation Oncologists of India, Past Joint Secretary and present Vice President of AROI Maharashtra Chapter and Life members of IMA, ICON, ISO, AATISS, IAOH, FHNO and also Member of American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Radiation Oncology, Society of Neuro-Oncology (USA) and Global Cancer Control Committee-UICC Geneva.



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## BODY FOUND IN TRAIN Buying house staff strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man who was found dead in a toilet of a train in the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station early Thursday was strangled, reveals autopsy report.

The deceased was identified as Moniruzzaman Bablu, 45, of Tilpapara in Khilgaon. He worked at a buying house in Uttara. Bablu's nephew, Raqibul Islam Chanchal, identified the body at Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday noon.

Chanchal said his uncle went missing on Wednesday night while he was returning home from his office.

He also said Bablu had a mobile phone, some cash and a bag with him, however, police did not find anything from the body.

Meanwhile, Matiur Rahman, father of Sadia Islam Rita, who was found decapitated at her Mirpur residence early Thursday, told this correspondent that Rita was beheaded by her husband, Manik Mia Bepari.

Rita worked as a computer-operator at a private firm in Mirpur and her husband used to suspect that she was having an affair with her colleague, said Matiur, adding that Manik might have killed his daughter because of the suspicion.

Matiur last talked to his daughter on Thursday night [January 10] and since the next day Rita's phone was switched off.

When Matiur called his son-in-law on Sunday, Manik said Rita left the house two days before.

Manik is now on the run and his cell phone is switched off, said the victim's father.



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Further, we shall renovate and redecorate our MHC clinic for utmost patient comfort; we are starting Telemedicine from next month for patients outside Dhaka to contact our Consultants from our Information Centres.

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