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## Speak out against militancy, women's repression

PM asks Islamic scholars

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon Islamic scholars to speak out against militancy, drug abuse, corruption, and repression of women in their sermons.

The premier said this while inaugurating 50 more model mosques and Islamic cultural centres in the fourth phase across the country, joining virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

She said, "If you give sermons in the mosque and discuss more to eliminate violence against women, militancy, spreading of rumours, inhumane treatment with domestic workers or subordinates... people will accept it."

Hasina especially laid emphasis on the need for highlighting these issues before the people in sermons during Jumma prayers.

The PM also urged scholars to give sermons about the essence of Islam, saying that sometimes, vested quarters lead innocent children astray. "These children will not be involved in terrorism if they are taught properly that Islam is the religion of peace."

Regarding communal harmony, she said, "Bangladesh

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday morning, marking the historic Mujibnagar Day. She then stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu.

PHOTO: BSS

## Mujibnagar Day observed

UNB, Dhaka

The country observed the historic Mujibnagar Day yesterday through various programmes.

On the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She paid homage by placing a wreath at Bangabandhu's portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital's Dhanmondi in the morning.

Flanked by central leaders of Awami League, Sheikh Hasina, also the president of the party, placed another wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu on behalf of AL.

On this day in 1971, Bangladesh's first government in exile was formed at the Baidyanathtala mango orchard in Meherpur, then under Kushtia.

The place was later renamed Mujibnagar as a tribute to Bangabandhu who had been declared as the president of the government-in-exile.

Syed Nazrul Islam was appointed the acting president in the absence of Bangabandhu. Tajuddin Ahmad was appointed the first prime minister, while Captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamaruzzaman were made cabinet members.

The successful leadership of the core cabinet steered the Liberation War to victory on December 16 that year.

## Empower industrial, river police to combat pollution

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers in a workshop recommended the law under which Industrial Police was created be amended to tackle pollution, and River Police be armed with logistics to prevent the onslaught on rivers.

They came up with the recommendations in the workshop organised by National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) yesterday.

Manjur A Chowdhury, chairman of NRCC, said Industrial Police cannot act against pollution as they were not mandated under the current law.

"We will write to higher officials of the government to bring a slight amendment to the law, so that they can play a role in combatting industrial pollution. Many industries don't operate effluent treatment plant (ETP) and release the effluents via underground pipes. Industrial police can act against them and inform us of the such malignant practice," he said.

He also underscored the need to strengthen River Police by arming them with modern patrol boats and

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## 'Must ensure gender-sensitivity'

Experts tell discussion on gender and media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists and rights activists emphasised the role of media houses in promoting gender equality and sensitivity by organising more training programmes on gender issues and having women in policy-making positions.

At a discussion held at The Daily

Star Centre, Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) unveiled a report titled "Gender Equality and Media Regulation Study", which analysed 4,530 news stories from 15 mainstream media outlets.

Qurratul-Ain-Tahmina, principal investigator and chief researcher, presented the report with support

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PHOTO: STAR

## Yet another market fire in the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) market in the capital's Uttara Sector-7 yesterday.

Around 10:25am, the fire service and civil defence (FSCD) received the information about the fire, and managed to douse it completely within 45 minutes, said Shafiqul Islam, deputy assistant director (Zone-3) of FSCD.

A total of six units of FSCD doused the fire.

There are around 100 tin-shed shops at the market and a fire broke out in the middle of it from an automobile shop, said Shafiqul.

"The shop was full of flammable objects, for

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## 'Long-term measures a must' Says Taposh on recent fires, hands over Tk 2 crore to affected traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said long-term measures should be taken to tackle fire incidents in the capital's markets.

"Not only should risky markets be marked but it should also be ensured that they aren't used again until they're risk-free," he said this yesterday while handing over cheques of Tk 2 crore to the traders affected by the Bangabazar fire at Buriganga Hall of The Nagar Bhaban.

"DSCC has formed a standing committee which will look into these issues thoroughly."

"If a market is too risky, it will be demolished and rebuilt. If it is repairable, it will go through substantial reforms," he added.

"We are very worried and shocked by the incidents of market fires. Law enforcers and intelligence agencies are working to unravel the reasons behind these accidents," Taposh added.



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