

Muslim contribution to architecture recalled

Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman said that the Muslim conquerors and travellers who came to this sub-continent brought with them a distinctive cultural heritage and way of life and refused to assimilate with the then existing Indian culture, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a publication ceremony of a book styled "Mosque architecture of pre-Moghul Bengal" in Dacca on Saturday Shah Aziz said, Muslims in the territory now comprising Bangladesh maintained and sustained that distinctive Islamic culture and heritage throughout the ages. Bangladeshi Jatiyatabad is based on this distinctiveness in culture and heritage and, therefore, is our natural identity, the Prime Minister added.

Shah Aziz, quoting the Holy Quran justified the compatibility of this Jatiyatabad with the Islamic tenets.

The function was presided over by Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed Managing Director of the University Press Dr. Nazimuddin Ahmed, Director, Archaeology and Museum and Prof M. Serajul Islam, Chairman, Department of Islamic History and Culture also spoke on the occasion Dr. Syed Mahmudul Hasan is the author of the book.

Shah Aziz said Islamic fraternity as enjoined in the Holy Quran stimulated our concept of nationalism and our constitution also provided for the consolidation and strengthening of fraternal relations among the Muslim countries based on Islamic solidarity.

Shah Aziz said the Muslim contribution to the develop-

ment of architecture was very great and recalled the architectural splendour and ornamental style of the Abbasid Khalifat in building mosques during the pre-Mughal era. The Prime Minister referred to architectural pattern of some mosques which enjoyed a distinct position in Muslim architecture.

The Prime Minister said Islam came to India through conquerors and travellers and wherever they settled, they first built a mosque for worship.

He said mosques exalted a distinct architectural pattern and became centres not merely of worship, but all community activities including research on science, agriculture,

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irrigation and education. Shah Aziz said that all mosques in the country should now become the centres of research and undertake all cultural activities. Material prosperity on a national scale cannot be attained without spiritual enlightenment, he said, adding Islam stood for perfect harmony between matter and spirit.

The Prime Minister recalled Muslim scholars' contributions towards science, technology, agriculture, mathematics and architecture. Shah Aziz mentioned in particular the names of Ibn Sina, Al Razi, Omar Khayyum and other scholars who enriched world scientific knowledge to such an extent that even today it was the basis of modern research.