

Substitute for Animal Sacrifice

by Mohammad Shoaib Adil

ANIMAL sacrifice on the Day of Eidul Azha is Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). However, it is not an obligatory Sunnah as some of the Ulema of our country try to make us believe. All the great Muslim jurists treat it as a Sunnah which if acted upon may bring reward for the believers but those who will refrain from it will not be punished (Al-Fiqah Ala Mazahib al-Arab Vol I, P-593). That is why many great companions like Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) Hazrat Umar (RA) Hazrat Ibn Abbas (RA) never offered animal sacrifice lest the people considered it obligatory worship (Kitul-ul-Umm) (by Imam Shafi Vol II, P-179). Usually a single animal was sacrificed on behalf of the whole tribe. Hazrat Zayn-al-Abdeen (RA) has reported that the animal sacrificed by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was considered sufficient for the whole tribe of Bani Hashim (Nail al-Autar Vol V, P-177).

There were Companions who instead of offering animal sacrifice preferred to give in charity the price of the animals to the needy people of Muslim society. Hazrat Bilal (RA) one of the prominent Companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was one of them. He was not only a prominent companion but had the honour to accompany the Holy Prophet (PBUH) throughout his life. This company was so permanent that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself had observed that when he ascended to heavens on the night of Miraj, he heard the voice of the

footsteps of Hazrat Bilal (RA) in front of him. Hazrat Bilal (RA) while accompanying the Holy Prophet (PBUH) usually walked in front of him. It was due to this lifelong companionship that even the great Companions inquired from him about the various practices of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

Hazrat Bilal (RA) used to offer the sacrifice of a chicken on Eidul Azha. When Hazrat Bilal (RA) was asked about it he declared that he preferred to give in charity the price of the animal instead of offering its sacrifice (Al Mohallah Ibn Hazam Vol VII, P-359).

As mentioned above Hazrat Bilal (RA) was the lifelong Companion of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and nobody could expect him to transgress from the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in respect of animal sacrifice. As a result, it was concluded by almost all the great Muslim jurists that he might have preferred this substitute for animal sacrifice after an explicit permission by the Holy Prophet (PBUH). It was on this account that in addition to many celebrated jurists, the celebrated founders of the three popular schools of Islamic jurisprudence such as Imam Malik, Imam Shafie and Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal (RA), had adopted this view-point. In this respect, Imam Ibn Hazm (RA) had reported the consensus of all the prominent Muslim jurists such as Hazrat Saeed bin Jubair, Imam Shubi, Hazrat

Saeed bin Jubair, Imam Atta, Hazrat Hasan, Imam Taus, Hazrat Jabir bin Zaid, Imam Ulkama, Hazrat Mohammad bin Ali bin Hussain, Imam Suyyan Sauri, Abdullah bin Al Hassan, Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, Imam Ishaque, Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal, Imam Ishaque, Imam Abu Suleman (RA), except of course the Hanafite Jurists (Ibid, P-358).

All the above-mentioned jurists were the founders of separate schools of Islamic jurisprudence but their schools did not survive due to lack of political support. In the above statement has been mentioned that only the Hanafite jurists had opposed the legitimacy of the substitute for animal sacrifice. In this respect they have inferred from a Hadith which according to the above-mentioned jurists was not an authentic one. The text of the Hadith is as under:-

"Hazrat Ayesha (RA) has reported that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) had said that the best action of a believer on the Day of Sacrifice is the slaughtering of an animal. Almighty Allah accepts this action of the believer even before the blood of sacrifice falls on the earth."

The following is the chain of reporters of this Hadith:

1. Abdul Rahman bin Ibrahim (RA).
2. Abdullah bin Nafay (RA).
3. Abdul Al-Mausana (RA).
4. Hisham bin Urwa (RA).

According to the authorities on Hadith all these reporters

were unreliable persons due to one reason or the other. For example there were four reporters of the name of Abdul Rahman bin Ibrahim (RA) and all of them were unreliable (Mizan al Aytidal, Vol II, pages 545, 546). The second reporter Abdullah bin Nafay (RA), according to some authorities was no doubt a reliable reporter but some great authorities of Hadith like Imam Bukhari and Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (RA) considered him as unreliable reporter (Ibid P-513, 14). About the third reporter, the authorities maintain that only those of his reports should be accepted as reliable which supported similar other reports on the subject (Ibid Vol IV, P-569). But in this case there is no other report on this issue. The fourth reporter is Hisham bin Urwa (RA). He is no doubt acknowledged as an authority on Hadith but it is reported that in his old age he used to confuse the text of the various Ahadith. He was fond of attending the courts of the kings. Once when he tried to kiss the hands of Caliph Al-Mansour (RA), he did not allow him to do so maintaining that it was below his dignity (Ibid Vol IV, pages 301, 302).

It was on this account that all the great authorities on Hadith had rejected this Hadith and instead accepted the view-point of Hazrat Bilal (RA) about the legality of a substitute of charity for animal sacrifice. It may be interesting to note that all these jurists were known as

Ahle Hadith, i.e., the scholars of Hadith. The reason being that they based their jurisprudence on the text of the authentic Ahadith. They had nicknamed the Hanafites as Ahlul-Roy, i.e., the people who preferred analogy over the Ahadith of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). It is also alleged by them that the founder of the Hanafite school Hazrat Imam Abu Hanifa (RA) accepted only seventeen Ahadith as authentic. These authorities on Hadith rejected the above-mentioned Hadith as unreliable but those who were famous for the rejection of the authentic Ahadith inferred from it for their viewpoint. Their viewpoint is weak as it is against the verdict of the majority of jurists.

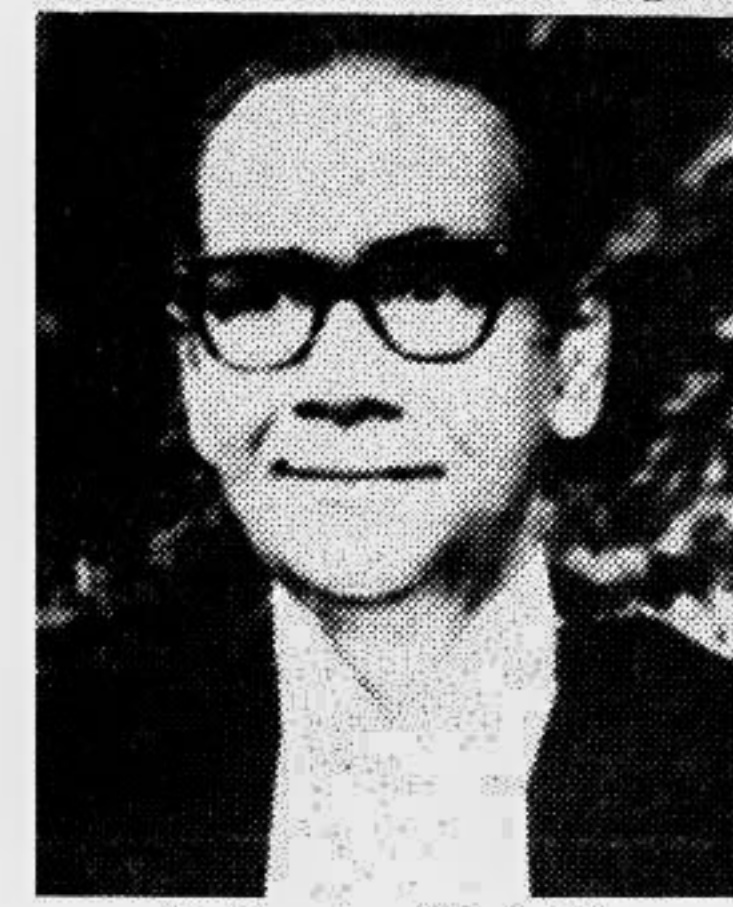
Our ulema usually refer to the verdicts of the jurists of the other schools whenever they feel need for it. The above-mentioned verdict of the majority of jurists in respect of the lawfulness of a substitute for animal sacrifice can prove beneficial for many of our people. There may be cases in many families where the need of a member may be more pressing than the sacrifice of an animal. In such a case he can be helped with a part of the price of the animal which is to be slaughtered on the Day of Eidul Azha. It would be treated as substitute for the animal sacrifice. Hazrat Bilal (RA) might have preferred it due to similar situations in Muslim society.

(Courtesy, 'The Nation' Lahore, Pakistan)

Unforgettable Justice Murshed

by Kabir Chowdhury

This cultural freedom during the repressive regime of Ayub Khan revealed his stature as a man of courage and vision, truly civilized and cultured, and above all narrow sectarian and parochial considerations. In 1961 Justice Murshed played a leading role in organizing the Tagore Centenary celebrations in Dhaka in defiance of the expressed opposition of the Pakistani rulers of the day. In his presidential address in the main function at Dhaka he gave a moving assessment of Tagore



Today, April 3, is his anniversary of death

as a world poet, a devotee of beauty and a relentless fighter against evil, injustice, ugliness and tyranny of every kind.

In his role as a Justice, one feels happy and proud to observe that Mahub Murshed lived up to the highest tradition of that lofty calling. He mentioned in one of his well-known addresses that he was greatly influenced by the profound learning of Aristotle, Imam Abu Hanifa, Justimian, Francis Bacon and modern giants like Holmes and Cardozo. For him, the function of a justice was far from being mechanical. Reference to precedents and examination of points of law as codified in various authoritative books were, no doubt, important parts of it, but they were not all. Let me quote his own words in this regard: "The truth is that the function of justice in the task of interpretation begins, flourishes, lives and pro-

gresses in the currents of human need to which it steadfastly responds." Justice Murshed was ever aware of these currents of human need. It was obviously this awareness that prompted him to incorporate in one of his stirring judgements the well-known lines of Shakespeare from *Measure for Measure*:

"O! it excellent but it is tyrannous, but it is tyrannous."

Justice Murshed's dedication to his vocation, total fearlessness and fierce independence of spirit have carved for him in our hearts an abiding niche of love, affection and respect. The judgements he delivered in the famous cases popularly known as the "Minister's Case", "Colonel Bhattacharya's Case" and "Pan Case" are still regarded as historic for his brilliant exposition of constitutional law, among other things.

Justice Murshed is no longer with us. But his example rests with us as a source of noble inspiration. Today, we are in dire need of men like him, men who can act in accordance with the ideals that Justice Murshed upheld and fostered. I am reminded at this point of the closing words of presidential address that Justice Murshed delivered in 1967 at a seminar on the Rule and Law. Let me quote: "The spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds of other men and women; the spirit of liberty is the spirit which weighs their interests alongside its own without bias; the spirit of liberty remembers that not even a sparrow falls to earth unheeded; the spirit of liberty is the spirit which emanates from the faith that there may be a kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered side by side with the greatest. In that spirit lies hidden, in some form, the aspirations of us all. In that spirit, I ask you to pledge our faith."

Moving words! And very pertinent at the present moment when the spirit of liberty seems to be threatened in so many parts of the world including our own little corner by the forces of tyranny and oppression.

After War, Educating for Peace

In Iraq, 540 000 specially designed textbooks have been produced, together with other general teaching materials. Almost 4000 teachers working in 700 primary schools are being specially prepared, with models of mines and wall charts which are used as visual teaching aids in classrooms.

THE dangers represented by antipersonnel landmines, aggravated by the post-war situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided an incentive for international campaigns aimed at supporting teaching in primary schools in high risk areas and at creating greater world awareness of the problem, since in most cases those most affected are children.

At the end of 1997, in Canada, 135 countries and many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) signed the Treaty of Ottawa banning the use of these artefacts worldwide, after it was recognised that they kill or mutilate one person every 20 minutes every day.

According to official statistics, there are between 80 and 120 million antipersonnel mines buried in 64 countries, in areas which are, currently, or have been in the past affected by armed conflicts. The problem is that many of the mines can remain buried for a long time without losing their capacity to kill when activated.

The countries most affected in the world are Angola, Mozambique, Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, El Salvador, Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia and Slovenia, where the UN is running mine-clearance programmes. According to the UN, over 3 million landmines were planted in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the four years of civil war.

In Cambodia, for example, one person out of every 236 has suffered mutilations caused by this type of weapon. In Angola, the figure is one out of 470; in Northern Somalia, one out of every 1,000 and in Vietnam, one out of every 2800. Bosnia has

one of the highest densities of planted mines in the world, at over 100 per square kilometre.

Children constitute the most exposed victims of antipersonnel landmines. Their natural curiosity and their liking of open air games make them particularly vulnerable. Added to that is the fact that children are less able to survive the explosion of a mine, since they are closer to the centre of the expansion wave and their small bodies cannot resist a heavy loss of blood. More than 50 per cent of mine victims die in the explosion and the others remain seriously disabled for the rest of their lives.

Creating Awareness for Life

One of the first awareness and training programmes on the dangers of landmines was launched by the International Rescue Committee, the University of Nebraska and other organisations, which took part in a cross-frontier operation between Afghanistan and the 1980s.

A similar programme, based on the Afghan experience, was introduced in 1990 in refugee camps situated on the border between Thailand and Cambodia. In both cases, educational material was produced, which included clothing on which the different types of mines most frequently encountered in those areas were printed.

In order to improve matters, the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Somalia and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Rwanda, devised a set of materials to serve as teaching aids in the effort to create awareness about mines, based on an informal methodology intended for schools and young persons.

Meanwhile, UNESCO/IBE (International Bureau of Education, with its headquarters in Geneva), in conjunction with UNHCR and UNICEF, prepared a set of teaching materials for awareness and training concerning the dangers of these mines, basically aimed at meeting the specific needs of Bosnia.

These materials are part of a continuous process which is reflected in the Global Information Network in Education (GINIE) of the University of Pittsburgh. GINIE is an online databank on education in countries in a state of crisis or transition, offering various types of materials, working tools and plans prepared for a specific situation, which may be adapted for implementation in other situations.

All the contributions received so far and the products of future research on awareness of antipersonnel mines in the field of education, prepared by IBE and GINIE, may be found in

the page which the two organisations have opened on the Internet, at the following address: <http://www.pitt.edu/~ginie/1m>.

Situation in Different Countries

In Afghanistan, an extensive awareness and training campaign has been launched on the dangers of these explosive artefacts in 12 districts of Kabul, through schools, mosques and the radio. First team leaders were trained, and then instructors were sent to schools, working in pairs, accompanied by a landmine victim.

In Angola, posters have been distributed with the help of the Mine-Awareness Task Force, while a press campaign has been launched providing visual information about mines and the dangers they represent, also using radio spots and involving the participation of local theatre companies, and especially the private sector. In order to secure their contribution to the education effort.

In El Salvador, several UN bodies and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front are cooperating with teachers, health workers and community leaders. These are all part of "multiplier" groups which carry out personalised education work.

In Mozambique, the UN supplied funds through Handicap International, which has been appointed as the lead organisation responsible for co-

ordinating the mine awareness programme, the main purpose being to include education on that subject in the school curriculum, as well as to provide appropriate training to social and health workers.

Rwanda, UNICEF and UNESCO launched a campaign to create awareness in the population, training over 2000 teachers and distributing 500 000 posters among teachers. Training was organised according to the "cascade" system, whereby a group of teachers is first selected to provide the initial core, which then trains a larger group, which then trains another, and so forth, while dissemination continues with the instruction of other core groups.

In former Yugoslavia (Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina), travelling exhibitions were organised on the types of mines constituting a danger for the civilian population, in addition to training seminars for practising teachers and the preparation of instruction handbooks for teachers. Initial results were successful, as children alone reported safely on the existence of 6 500 explosive artefacts.

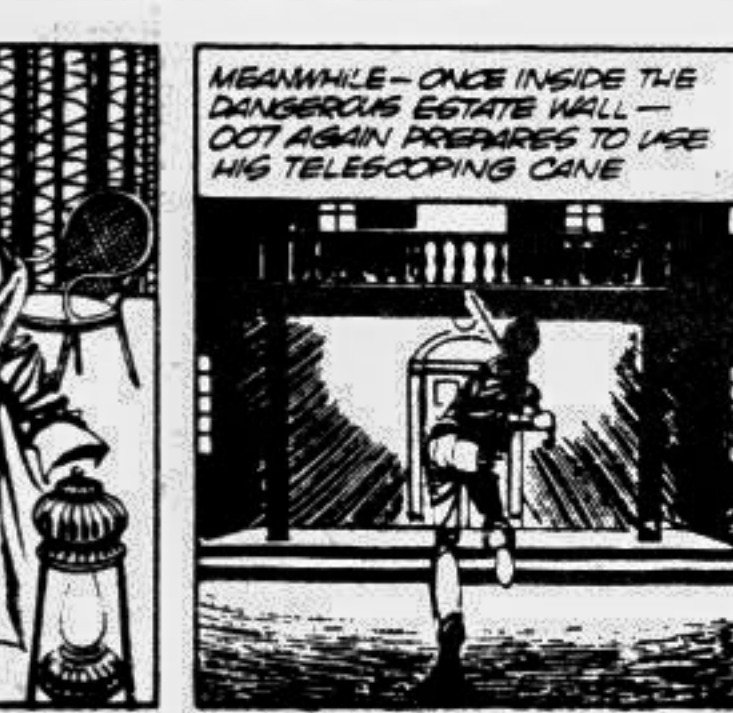
In Somalia, where there are an estimated million mines buried, the task is headed by UNESCO, through its Programme for Education and Reconstruction, assisted by UNHCR. Teachers are being trained there in accordance with the "cascade" instruction method, whereby international educators train a small group of national teachers, who in turn pass on the teaching to regional instructors, who then train local instructors.

— Unesco Release

Garfield



IAN FLEMING'S James Bond DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY



Metropolitan

Kibria holds pre-budget meet with NGOs

Economic growth thru' more investment must for poverty alleviation

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday said growth is more important than increasing sector-wise allocations for the over-all economic development of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a pre-budget meeting with NGO representatives at National Economic Council (NEC) in the city, the finance minister said expansion of economy through increasing investment is a must to achieve the cherished national goal of poverty alleviation.

He said the government is willing to work in cooperation with the NGOs for national development and expressed the hope that the NGOs would grow as a lasting and self-reliant force to supplement the government efforts.

Kibria said the government is very much concerned about the empowerment of women and committed to the welfare of children. The government is serious about keeping a provision for extending credit to needy women in the proposed employment bank, he said.

All administrative procedures for distribution of super-annuation allowances have been completed and the government has already created provisions for the elected women representatives at the grassroots level local government system in line with its commitment toward empowerment of women, Kibria said.

He said implementation of housing programme for the low-paid and needy women needs time to be sorted out. Referring to the Asrayan Project being implemented under the direct supervision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the minister said the government is

eager to provide housing to the people.

The NGO representatives extended many proposals to the finance minister, including monitoring of expenditures in social sector, more allocation for social development by trimming the defence budget, exemption of taxes on imported books, educational equipment and donation money for charity, stopping of bank patronisation for the polluting industrial units, discouraging import of two-stroke engine, imposition of taxes on the income of highly paid government officials, doctors, engineers, teachers and other professionals.

Woman succumbs to burn injuries

By Staff Correspondent

A 25-year-old housewife who suffered fatal burn injuries, reportedly while trying to commit suicide, at city's Shabubagh area on March 29 succumbed to injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Police identified the dead as Shahnaz Begum, wife of Ramiz, a resident of Sekhertek under Shabubagh thana.

Hospital sources quoted relatives of the victim as saying that following a feud with her husband Shahnaz poured kerosene over herself and set fire to her body at her house. Severely burned Shahnaz was admitted at the DMCH soon after the incident. She succumbed to her injuries yesterday morning. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Father-in-law of Shahnaz filed a general diary with Shabubagh thana in this regard on March 30.

5 dredging crafts 'Genocide Day' commissioned

Five dredging ancillary crafts were commissioned at a function at Pagla Ghat, Narayanganj yesterday, reports BSS. The dredgers were built and procured at a cost of Taka 5.8 crore under a project financed by the World Bank (WB). Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rob attended the commissioning ceremony as the chief guest. Shipping Secretary A H Mozaffar Karim and BIWTA Chairman Abdul Mannan Hawlader spoke on the occasion.

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'Genocide Day' observed in Keraniganj

The Genocide Day commemorating the atrocities of the Pakistani occupation forces on this day in 1971 was observed in Keraniganj yesterday in a befitting manner, reports BSS. Various political and socio-cultural organisations took elaborate programmes to mark the day. Hoisting of national flags at half mast, wearing of black badges, discussion and memorial meetings, milad mahfil and feeding of the destitute were the highlights of the day's programme.

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A BIWTA press release said the organisation would dredge one crore cubic metre of river bed under the WB financed project. The project is likely to be completed by December this year.

BUET holiday

All classes of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will remain closed from April 5 to 13, on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS. The classes will resume as usual on April 15. The offices of the university will, however, remain open on April 12 and 13.

'Madhu Da will remain alive as long as DU exists'

By DU Correspondent

A memorial meeting in observance of the 27th death anniversary of Shaheed Madhusudhan Dey, popularly known as Madhu Da, was held yesterday at the Madhu's canteen premises of the Dhaka University.

Presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury the meeting was addressed, among others, by K M Jahangir, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Prof. Mahfuza Khanom, Akteruzzaman M.P., Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Morshed Ali, and Arun Kumar Dey, the son of Madhu Da. Ziaul Haq Zia conducted the meeting.

Madhusudhan Dey, the founder of the historic Madhu's Canteen was gunned down by the Pakistani Army on the fateful night of March 25, 1971 on the DU campus.

Paying tribute to the memory of Madhu Da, the VC said the Madhu Da would remain alive in the memory of the people as long as the Dhaka University existed.

K M Jahangir said that Madhu Da gave shelter to the student leaders who were involved in democratic movements against the then Pakistani regime. But he never allowed communal forces, he said adding that the dream of Madhu Da could only be realised by establishing a non-communal society.

Mahfuza Khanom said that the history of Language Movement, Liberation War movement and other democratic movements could not be written ignoring Madhu Da.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SWITZERLAND



The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, held a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Show cause notice issued on JP MP

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad issued a show cause notice on a party MP Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu. Jhantu has been asked to explain 15 days from yesterday as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against him for violating the party rules, a party press release said yesterday.

Jhantu allegedly harmed the JP interest in his interview published in a vernacular tabloid newspaper on March 25, the release said. According to another press release Ershad appointed Moidul Islam as one of the joint secretaries of the JP central working committee. Darul Huda, a former Mayor of the Rajshahi City Corporation was appointed the secretary for freedom fighters' affairs.

Ershad leaves for N-dists today

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad leaves city today on an eight-day organisational tour to northern districts, reports UNB. The former president will celebrate Eid-ul-Azha at his home district Rangpur.

Confce of BCL Tejgaon unit held

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) should be an organisation of meritorious and good students which would play a pioneering role in bringing back congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced BCL as a terrorist-free student organisation, he said, adding that from now on BCL has to resist communalism, terrorism as well as any attempt to destabilise the country's hard-earned democracy.

Prof Sayeed was speaking as the chief guest at a function organised by Tejgaon thana BCL on the occasion of its annual conference at the Church Community Centre in the city yesterday. Presided over by local BCL acting president M Shah Alam, the function was addressed, among others, by BCL city unit president A B M Mazharul Anam, BCL central committee vice presidents Akhter Hossain and Mesbah Hossain Sachchu, general secretary of Tejgaon thana unit BCL Abdulla Al Mamun and Jubb League leader Kazim Mustaq Hossain Elen.

Justice Murshed's death anniversary today

The 19th death anniversary of Chief Justice Syed Mahub Murshed, an eminent jurist, and one of the greatest constitutional lawyers of the sub-continent will be observed today, says a press release.

Quran Khani and Fateha Khani will be held in the morning and the Syed Mahub Murshed Memorial Committee will place wreath at the late Justice Murshed's mazar at Banani graveyard.

A milad mahfil will be held on the same day at the deceased's residence NW-5, Road 68, Gulshan, after Asr prayers. Different socio-cultural organisations have arranged discussion meetings on Justice Murshed's historical role and achievements.

Shawkat Osman's condition still unchanged

The condition of noted litterateur Prof Shawkat Osman, now undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka remains unchanged, an ISPR press release said yesterday. A four-member medical board has been formed for his treatment, the release said.