

Bigots force the removal of the sculptures.

Advocating Madness

ELITA KARIM

When, at a press conference following the demolition of the baul sculptures, the convener of the Islami Ain Bastabayan Committee, Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini, also the chairperson of Islami Oikya Jote, declared that very soon all the statues and sculptures in the country would be demolished, the freedom-loving people of the country were outraged. Images of a slow and steady destruction and forced abandonment of a rich cultural heritage began to play and replay in everyone's minds, especially when news poured in of religious bigots halting a concert which was to be performed by the famous folk singer Mumtaz, around the same time the sculptures were destructed.



Mufti Fazlul Haque Amini.

Amini, of course, used the platform to place tons of other demands and complaints, the usual tirade like demanding the expulsion of a teacher of an American college, Dr Taj Hashmi and asking that he be declared 'anti-Islam', that he be expelled from Bangladesh for his writings in a Bangla daily, scrapping of the Women's Development Policy 2008, demanding not to hand over control of the country's primary education to Brac, besides the demolition of statues built by Sheikh Hasina-led past government, once an Islamic government is formed of course. One cannot blame Amini for his dreams of building an 'ideal Bangladesh'.

They have further remarked in a confident manner, that emergency rules will not put an end to their activities. However, not only have their activities created a bigger distance between religion and the common people, they have also openly shown to the world a distorted, violent image of Islam. They have presented Islam as a religion that promotes intolerance, bigotry, bloodshed and inequality, which is quite the contrary of what the religion preaches.