



Toxic fumes rise up while a pungent smell hangs over the whole area as tannery waste is burnt to produce chicken feed. The photo was taken from Hazaribagh area in the capital recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bigots torch six tents of Ahmadiyya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of religious bigots torched six tents of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat at Mouchak in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila last evening.

The Ahmadiyya Muslims were preparing for their three-day annual convention scheduled to start from tomorrow at Mouchak Scout Ground.

They set up the tents to accommodate the members and hold the functions, said Ahmad Tavshir Chowdhury, an executive committee member of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat.

Since yesterday afternoon, hundreds of bigots started to gather at the scout ground gate, he said, adding that after Maghrib prayers they torched the tents and vandalised the furniture, microphone and other valuables.

The tents were burnt down before fire fighters reached the spot. Before burning the tents, the bigots also blocked Dhaka-Tangail highway.

Tavshir said they got permission to arrange programmes there. A section of religious zealots started to spread hate among the general Muslims against them from a gathering of Khatme Nabuwat on February 3.

Yesterday afternoon, they announced to hold a rally just in front of our venue, he said. "We feared violence and sought help from law enforcers but got no help from them."

He also claimed that the religious bigots brought men from different places by trucks to torch the venue, and they used gun powder. Khatme Nabuwat Movement men led the violence, he added.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanjit Kumar Roy said they fired six bullets from shotgun to tackle the situation but no one was injured. He denied the allegation of not providing security to the scout ground.

Leaders of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat said they chose the scout ground, which was away from locality, so that problems with local religious bigots could be averted.

For over a decade, Ahmadiyya Muslims have been facing abuse and aggression of religious bigots across the country. Many of their houses have been looted and some have even been killed.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Khandker Abdur Rahim, former manager of Mirpur Ceramic Works Ltd, died of old age complications at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on Tuesday night. He was 92.

He left behind his wife, five sons, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He will be buried at the family graveyard in Bhangoliar on Tuesday.

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK



Doa mahfil of Dr AMA Rahim, former secretary of the government of Bangladesh, will be held after Asr prayers at his Banani residence in the capital tomorrow.

He died of a heart attack in the capital's United Hospital on Monday. He was 76.

Rahim was also economic adviser to the president and managing director of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

All of his relatives, friends and will-wishers are requested to attend the programme at House No-57, Road No-21, Block-B, Banani.

Girl commits suicide in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

A young girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Jamidar Hat area of Kadhurkhal village under Boalkhal upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Parul Aktar, 17, daughter of late Ahmad Ali of the area.

She was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared her dead.

Police could not ascertain the reason behind the suicide.

BANGLADESHI VICTIMS IN UAE ROAD CRASH

Death toll may climb to 21

UNB, Dhaka

Death toll of Bangladeshi workers in the Abu Dhabi road crash on February 4 may rise to 21, said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain yesterday.

"Besides the 16 Bangladeshi workers killed in the accident, there are five more dead bodies awaiting identification," the minister told journalists after a programme in the capital's Biam Auditorium.

"According to the latest information, two of the five unidentified dead workers have been identified as Bangladesh nationals... So the official figure of the dead now stands at 18," he added.

The minister said it will take about seven days to complete the process to bring the bodies back home.

"Our first priority is to ensure proper compensation for the victims' families. It can take three-four days, but we need to ensure the proper certification of the deaths by the authorities in that country (United Arab Emirates)," he said.

He estimated that the compensation will amount to around Tk 40 lakh for each deceased worker.

A total of 22 workers died and 25 others were injured when a bus carrying the workers collided with a truck filled with construction materials at Abu Dhabi in the UAE on February 4.



Seminar

Bangladesh Medical Research Council will organise a "Seminar on availability & accessibility of opioid to the end-users"; Venue: its premises; Time: 10:00am.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramic Federation will hold a meeting in memory of Comrade Nirmal Sen; Venue: Liberation War Museum; Time: 3:00pm.

Cultural programme

Ostad Hossain Ali Sangskritik Academy will organise a cultural programme marking its 27th founding anniversary; Venue: Central Public Library; Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar

ADD International will hold a seminar on "Improved food and livelihood security in Bagerhat district Bangladesh in the context of increased disaster risk and climate change"; Venue: Parjatan Hotel Abakash; Time: 10:30am.

Rally

Green Voice will organise a rally demanding conservation of the country's rivers; Venue: before Buriganga 2 Bridge, beside Babu Bazar; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Society of the Deaf & Sign Language Users will organise a discussion marking "Bangla Sign Language Day 2013"; Venue:

Development works of Chawk Bazar College Road in Chittagong city have been going on for long, causing suffering for those using the road every day. The photo was taken recently.



PHOTO: STAR

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