Attack reignites spirit

FROM PAGE 1

When they reached Ramna Park, the Shahbagh protesters, fearing an attack, rushed

A clash followed between the groups inside the park, in which 15 people were injured, police said. Six Hefajat men, who were among the injured, were arrested.

violence could not dampen the spirit of the protesters. People poured in their hundreds and then in their thousands once news of the violence spread; and with renewed zeal, they chanted slogans in unison. Within an hour, Shahbagh had turned into a site of protest, fully charged and ready for battle.

"The time to stay inactive is over; I urge all residents of Dhaka to come out on the streets to counter this terrorism," said Imran H Sarker, convenor of Gonojagoron Mancha, from the stage.

"We have been carrying Shahbagh. out a non-violent movement for the last two months. Please don't try to incite us [to violence] because, once enraged, we can only be appeased with your blood."

Speakers at the rally strongly decried the attempts of the Hefajat-e-Islam to challenge the existence of a secular, democratic

In the name of Hefajat, "war criminals of Jamaat" and their collaborators held a rally at Motijheel, Imran said,

speakers at the Hefajat's rally yesterday and the demands that were made certainly went against the spirit of the Liberation War of

Bangladesh and that is tantamount to sedition, he said. The Hefajat and war criminals are pushing the country towards a critical state and the government is encouraging and protecting them.

Imran urged people of the country to bring out processions with the national flag on Monday morning to resist the However, the threat of hartal called by the Hefajat.

Gonojagoron Mancha announced a mass sit-in programme for April 10 from 11:00am to 1:00pm in front of the law ministry to press home its demands, and a grand rally to be held on April 14.

The candidates of the ongoing Higher Secondary Certificate examinations are exempted from the student strike on April 9.

"At their rally, they (Hefajat leaders) threatened the values of our liberation war," Shahriar Kabir said, addressing the gathering at

Even if one of Hefajat's 13 demands was accepted, Bangladesh would not remain itself, he said.

Afghanistan of Mollahs and

He also demanded that a committee be formed to investigate the involvement of Hefajat leaders in war crimes in 1971 and terrorism.

Maruf Rosul, a Gonojagoron Mancha activist, said there was information that some 50 Dhaka University teachers had participated at yesterday's rally of the Hefajat. He condemned these teachers for their acts against the spirit of liberation.

During the clash with the

April 11

April 12

April 13

April 18

April 19

April 20

April 26

April 29

to them

students

Shahbagh protesters in the afternoon, Hefajat men vandalised several vehicles near Kakrail Mosque and the residence of the chief Justice and broke fences at Ramna Park.

Police fired blank shots and hurled teargas canisters to disperse the two groups and detained the six activists of Hefajat, the officer-incharge of Ramna Police Station said.

Soon after the Hefajat's rally at Motijheel ended around 5:00pm, its activists along with Jamaat-Shibir men marched towards the Gonojagoron Mancha through the gate near Kakrail Mosque, witnesses said.

When the Shahbagh protesters heard that people from the opposite direction were coming towards them, they took up whatever they could find -- sticks, stones or bricks. Then they ran towards the alleged attackers, chanting slogans. At that time the organisers of Gonojagoron Mancha were urging them to stay calm and collected.

"We heard about the "It will become another attack. So I picked up a stick, and ran towards the direction of the attackers, without a second thought," said Ridwan Kabir, a student.

"Do you think they [Hefajat men] can scare us and tell us what to do, and we'll go into hiding?" cried Lutfa Halima, who also had a stick in her

Many of the attackers were in jeans, pants and caps, and were likely to be Jamaat-Shibir men, according to witnesses.

The attackers were accompanied by Jamaat-Shibir men said Shah Alam, OC of Ramna Police Station, said.

9 RALLIES

Sylhet

Barisal

Faridpur

Chittagong

Khulna

Rajshahi

HEFAJAT DEMANDS

mental principles of state policy

people united by belief in Allah

the holding of religious programmes

their publicity and conspiracies

colleges and universities

higher secondary levels

and khatibs

in the media

1. Reinstate the phrase "Absolute trust and faith in the

2. Enact a law providing for capital punishment for

Stop all propaganda and "derogatory comments"

and smear campaigns against Muslims

Almighty Allah" in the constitution as one of the funda-

maligning Allah, Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

about Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by the "atheist lead-

anti-Islamists; arrest them and ensure stern punishment

ers" of the Shahbagh movement, bloggers and other

4. Stop attacking, shooting, killing and persecuting the

5. Release all arrested Islamic scholars and madrasa

6. Lift restrictions on mosques and remove obstacles to

7. Declare "Qadianis" non-Muslim and call a halt to

8. Stop foreign cultural intrusions including free-

name of freedom of expression and conscience

mingling of men and women and candlelit vigils, and put

an end to adultery, injustice, shamelessness, etc. in the

Stop turning Dhaka, the city of mosques, into a city of

idols, and stop setting up sculptures at intersections,

10. Scrap anti-Islam women policy and education policy

11. Stop threatening and intimidating teachers and

students of Qawmi madrasas, Islamic scholars, imams

> 12. Stop propagating hatred among the younger gener-

13. Stop anti-Islam activities by NGOs, evil attempts by

Chittagong Hill Tracts and elsewhere in the country

ation of Muslims by misrepresentation of Islamic culture

Qadianis and conversions by Christian missionaries in the

and make Islamic education mandatory from primary to

Prophet-loving Islamic scholars, madrasa students and

Brahmanbaria

Mymensingh

Target Taliban rule FROM PAGE 1 (Huji) Bangladesh and has

Islamic Movement) এর দাওয়াতে। বিশিষ্ট সমাজনেবী,

মহাপরিচালক ভাই মাওলানা শহীদুল ইসলামের আবেগপুর্ব

শায়খুল হাদীস আল্লামা আজীজুল হক সাহেব ঢাকা

মাওঃ আতাউর রহমান খান সাহেব কিশোরগঞ্জ

মাওঃ সুলতান জাওক সাহেব চট্টগ্রাম

tant groups. Habibur himself revealed the link in an interview with a bulletin titled "Islami Biplob" (Islamic revolution), pub-

links with international mili-

প্রতিনিধি তাঁর মুখোমুখি হন।

lished on August 20, 1998, in Sylhet with the express purpose of celebrating "the total victory of Talibans and establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan". The Huji Bangladesh top

brass include Shaikhul Hadith Allama Azizul Haq (who passed away in August 2012), who was also chief of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, a former partner of the BNPled alliance; Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish second-incommand (now chief) Muhammad Habibur Rahman of Sylhet; Ataur Rahman Khan of Kishoreganj; Sultan Jaok of Chittagong; Abdul Mannan of Faridpur; and Habibullah of Noakhali.

All of them were involved in different Islamic organisations and madrasas. Ataur Rahman Khan was elected MP on a BNP ticket in 1991 from Kishoreganj-3 constituency.

In an interview several years ago, Habibur disclosed the names of people with whom he had travelled to 1988, visited some Taliban militant camps and also met al-Qaeda leader Osama bin

Laden. The bulletin on its front page ran an interview of Habibur in which he gave a detailed account of his visit to

Afghanistan in 1988. He said, "An invitation from Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami made it possible for me to make the fortunate trip to Afghanistan... Those of us who visited the Afghan war fields during that trip are Shaikhul Hadith, Ataur Rahman Khan, Sultan Jaok, Abdul Mannan, Habibullah,

myself and three others." In Pakistan, leaders of the local chapter of Huji greeted the nine members of the Bangladeshi team and took them to the Huji's Karachi

Habibur said Huji Pakistan chief Saifullah Akhtar and a Bangladeshi Mujahideen, Abdur Rahman Shahid, drove them to an Afghan Mohajir (literally, refugee) camp on the Pak-Afghan border. They stayed at the camp and visited some injured Mujahideens and an Islamic cadet college, where the cadets received them with a guard of honour.

This is the bulletin published in 2004 in which Khelafat Majlish Ameer Habibur revealed

his links with Huji and his meeting with Osama Bin Laden. He was a key organiser of

Hefajat-e Islam's Dhaka long march and rally at Shapla Chattar yesterday.

Abdur Rahman then drove them to the residence of top Mujahideen leader Abde Rabbir Rasul Saiaf, the narration goes on. The house was defended like a fort with antiaircraft guns and armed guards.

On their way to Afghanistan the next day, the Bangladeshi team visited a special Mujahideen training camp in Pakistan and met about a dozen Bangladeshi young Mujahideens led by one Abdul Quddus. They watched youths from different countries being imparted military training on a mountainous terrain. The arms they were being trained to operate included rocked-propelled grenades.

That night Habibur shared his meal of dry cold bread with "a handsome young Arab". He said, "When Afghanistan via Pakistan in enquired about his identity, I was told he was Osama bin Laden, a son of one of the richest Saudi families."

The next day they entered Afghanistan and arrived at a Mujahideen cantonment on a mountaintop. They visited an armoury inside a tunnel. They were informed that some Russian forces were in position nearby and that every one must prepare to

"All of us were given Kalashnikov [AK-47] rifles, he said, adding that they stayed the night at the camp, while a Mujahideen team advanced towards the enemy position and engaged in a skirmish. The following day they started their return

In the interview, Habibur asserted, "Only the establish-

ment of a Khilafat (pan-Islamic movement)-based state following the Taliban ideology can change the lot of the nation.' Habibur is also the con-

বিশেষ সাক্ষৎকারে প্রিন্সিপাল মাওলানা মুহাম্মদ হাবীবুর রহমান

তালেবানের পথ ধরে খেলাফতভিত্তিক রাষ্ট্র প্রতিষ্ঠার

মাধ্যমেই কেবল জাতির ভাগ্যের পরিবর্তন সম্ভব

অবস্থা ভাষায় ব্যক্ত করা যায় না। কার

চোখ নেই কারও হাত নেই। কেইবা বা প

হারিয়েছেন। অনেকের পেটের তলায় গুলি

লেগেছে। অশীতিপর বন্ধ অনেক যুদ্ধাহত

প্রিঙ্গিপাল মাওলানা মুহাম্মদ হাবীবুর রহমান বাংলাদেশ খেলাফত মজলিসের নায়েবে

আমীর, ছাহাবা সৈনিক পরিষদের আহ্বায়ক ও দেশের খ্যাতনামা ইসলামী শিক্ষা

প্রতিষ্ঠান জামেয়া মাদানিয়া ইসলামিয়া কাজির বাজার সিলেট এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা

প্রিঙ্গিপাল। দেশের জাতীয় রাজনীতিতে তিনি উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদান রেখে যাচ্ছেন

বিশেষ করে তিনি নাস্তিক মুরতাদ তথা খোদাদ্রোহী অপশক্তি বিরোধী আন্দোলনে

একজন সফল রূপকার হিসেবে স্বীকৃত। আফগানে ইসলামী তালেবান মোজাহেদীনের

পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজয় উপলক্ষে প্রকাশিত বিশেষ বুলেটিন 'ইসলামী বিপ্লব'-এর পক্ষ থেকে তার

প্রতিক্রিয়া জানতে। গত ১৫ই আগষ্ট '৯৮ জামেয়া মাদানিয়ার দফতরে আমাদের

ইসলামী বিপ্রব ঃ আপনার আফগানিস্থান সফরের অভিজ্ঞতা কলেজে নিয়ে হাজির হলেন ১৬/১৭ বছরের

প্রিপি. মাওঃ হাবীব : আমার আফগানিস্তান সফরের সৌভাগ্য প্রচার বিভাগে গেলাম। চলমান গাড়ীতেই

ও বর্তমান ভালেবান মুজাহিদদের উত্তানের পটভূমি আলোকপাত ছেলেরা সামরিক কায়দায় সালাম এবং

হয়েছিল হারকাতুল জিহাদিল ইসলামী (Inter national অত্যাধুনিক অফসেট প্রেসে অবিরত কর্মব্যস্ত

আহবানে। হরা মার্চ ১৯৯৮ সনে বাংলাদেশ থেকে আমন্ত্রিত হাসপাতালে। কি মর্মশপর্শী দৃশা। সেখানে

ভেলিগেট হিসেবে সেদিন যাঁরা আফগান রণাংগন সফরে তরুণ যুবক এবং বৃদ্ধ মোজাহিদ ভাইদের

প্রিন্সিপাল মাওলানা মুহাম্মদ হাবীবুর রহমানের সাক্ষাৎকারের পূর্ণ বিবরণ ঃ

vener of Sahaba Sainik Parishad and founding principal of Jameya Madania Islamia, a madrasa at Kazir Bazar, Sylhet. The government banned

Huji on October 17, 2005, branding it a "selfproclaimed terrorist organisation". Widespread criticism was

sparked in 2006 when the Awami League made a controversial deal with Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish on December 23 that year. In the deal, which never

saw the light of day, both sides had agreed, among other points, that if the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power, fatwa (religious edict) by certified Hakkani alems (educated clerics) would be recognised and the government would recognise the degrees conferred by traditional Qawmi madrasas.

Sylhet Awami League leaders were outraged in 2006 when Habibur became a possible nominee of the grand alliance in a Sylhet constituency for the January 2007 elections, which were later cancelled. The Awami League leaders

and activists of Sylhet-6 (Golapganj and Biyanibazar upazilas) had threatened to quit the party en masse if Habibur was nominated by the grand alliance. Some Awami League lead-

ers in Sylhet told this correspondent in 2006 that Habibur was against the Liberation War and against the Awami League. He was against female leadership and had acted as a factor behind the Awami League's losing elections in Sylhet more than once.

"He had prevented poet Shamsur Rahman and Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam from entering Sylhet. In 1992-1993, I managed to

ber-secretary of the Jamaat-

e-Islami Dhaka City unit. He

is also the naveb-e-ameer of

both Khelafat-e Islami and

bring Shamsur Rahman to Biyanibazar, but could not take him to Sylhet because of Habibur Rahman," Ataur Rahman Khan, then Biyanibazar upazila Awami League general secretary

IMAGE:

STAR ARCHIVE

told The Daily Star in 2006. In the 1990's, Habibur had declared a Tk 50,000 reward for author Taslima Nasrin's head.

Yesterday, at the rally at Shapla Chattar, copies of a booklet were distributed. A line of the booklet read, "If alems and olamas can run Afghanistan then Bangladeshi alems would be able to run the country with Allah's help."

Strike stalls goods

FROM PAGE 20 Chairman of the group Abul Bashar Chowdhury said they had to bear \$14,000 every day as demurrage due to overstay of the vessel.

Contacted, Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association, said they could not pay the enhanced wages to the workers as their income dropped over the last two years.

Cement factories had been operating their own water vessels to carry the cementmaking materials from mother vessels, hampering the income of the lighter vessels significantly, he added.

He urged the government to mediate between the owners of cement factories and lighter vessels.

Big-sized cargo vessels cannot berth at the jetties of the port and get anchored at the outer anchorage and deep sea with imported goods to be unloaded by the lighter vessels.

The lighter vessels later transport the goods to different private jetties in Chittagong and other destinations in the country.

Around 1.5 crore tonnes of goods was transported from the vessels at the outer anchorage in this process last year, according to data from

secretary general of Hefajat

however, around 1:00pm

announced that they were

"withdrawing and rejecting"

minister, terming it "anti-

also secretary general of IOJ.

wage a tough movement to

oust the present administra-

Mohammad Ishak is another

top leader in the BNP-led

alliance. He spoke promi-

nently at the meeting label-

Khelafat Majlish Ameer

liberation".

Driver hurt in Ctg dies at **DMCH** STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

HARTAL VIOLENCE

A battery-run threewheeler driver Md Musa, who sustained severe burn injuries during the Jamaatenforced hartal in Chittagong on March 25, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Contacted, Abdus Sattar, Musa's cousin, confirmed the death, adding that they were taking preparations to take the body to Chittagong.

On March 25, some prohartal pickets vandalised Musa's vehicle and also set it ablaze, pouring petrol on it in the port city's Rahattarpole area. Nearly 80 percent of his body was brunt in the arson attack.

The ill-fated driver, 25, was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, doctors of the hospital referred him to Dhaka for better treatment.

Khaleda FROM PAGE 1

the detained BNP leaders were not granted bail by today.

Chaired by Khaleda at her Gulshan office, the meeting decided to suspend the BNP-led alliance's earlier announced April 10 rally in the capital aimed at ousting the government, Shawkat Hosain Nilu, chief of a component of the

alliance National Peoples

Party, told The Daily Star. The BNP chief asked Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Abdul Latif Nejami and leaders of Khelafat Majlish and Nejame Islami Party why Hefajat-e Islam did not announce tougher programmes including two or three-day hartal from its rally at Motijheel in the

capital yesterday. She also asked them why they the Hefajat programme was not turned into a sit-in for several days, though its field level leaders demanded so, a top leader of the alliance told this corre-

spondent. Wishing anonymity, he said, "They [alliance leaders] had information that the grassroots level activists of Hefajat wanted continuing the Shalpa Chatter programme. But its

ameer did not agree to it." Earlier, at a meeting of BNP standing committee, Khaleda came down heavily on its members for the same reason, said

meeting sources.

Brahmaputra FROM PAGE 20

He added that Bangladesh was equally concerned about a move in China to divert Brahmaputra's water.

The issue of China reportedly planning to construct barrages on Yarlung Tsangpor (as the river is called in Tibet) was raised by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when he had first met the new Chinese president in Durban last week.

China maintains that the slogan against the prime the barrages do not involve diversion of the river water.

Maulana Foyezullah, "Arunachal Pradesh," Hefajat's joint secretary said Manmohan, "is the general who read out the 13source of water for the point demand at the rally, is Brahmaputra basin and thus the primary stake-Abdul Latif Nejami is the holder in all respects in the chairman of the Islami Oikya management of the river in Jote. Also chairman of the terms of hydropower gener-Nejame Islami Party, he ation and navigation." called upon the gathering to

> The high commissioner later called on the state's Governor General (retd) JJ Singh at Raj Bhawan and discussed various matters including inland waterways, Brahmaputra river project and areas of prospective trade and commercial activ-

governor of the proposed meetings on the Brahmaputra and Ganga basins with India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and

Not backing but leading

FROM PAGE 1

18-party alliance.

Besides, several senior organisers belong to either the Khelafat Majlish or Nejame Islami Party, both components of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance.

Although the 18-party alliance claimed it only extended moral support to the Hefajat's long march followed by the rally, the IOJ and Khelafat Majlish were found to be key organisers of the programmes.

Interestingly, it was seen that at least two prominent speakers who came down heavily on the government do not belong to the Hefajat.

Of the two, Maulana Imran is president of the Islami Chhatra Khelafat, the student wing of the Khelafate-Islami, while Habibur Rahman is ameer of the Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish and is involved with a

madrasa in Sylhet. The Hefajat-e Islam has been trying to label the Shahbagh bloggers as atheists in its efforts to turn the country's majority Muslims against them.

The Shahbagh movement began on February 5 soon after Jamaat leader Quader Mollah received a rather lenient sentence -- life imprisonment -- for genocide and other crimes committed against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

It later spread to different parts of the country and even abroad, pressing for capital punishment to war criminals and their patron the Jamaate-Islam.

Maulana Habibur Rahman's turn came as the speaker, a moderator identified him as ameer of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish.

you ready to do that?"

ated the meet are also involved either in Khelafat-e-Islam or Khelafat Majlish or

Islami Oikya Jote. Zunaid Al Habib, one of the moderators, is the mem-

Islami.

At the rally yesterday, as the podium. Habibur Rahman,

addressing the crowd said, "Muslims are ready to sacrifice their lives for serving Allah, Rasul and Quran. Are Most of those who moder-

sandals high in the air and kept chanting the slogan. Zunaid Babunogori,

Another moderator, Altaf Hossain, is student affairs secretary of the Khelafat-e-One of the moderators, Selimullah, joint secretary

Islami Oikya Jote.

general of the Hefajat, at 12:56pm chanted an abusive slogan against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while inviting a speaker to Before uttering the slo-

gan, Selimullah, a teacher of a Jamaat-dominated madrasa in Chittagong, told the crowd that the government had suspended live telecast of the meeting on Diganta, Bangla Vision and nTV. Amid a roar from hun-

ling the government as an anti-Islam element. dreds of thousands in the Shamsul Alam, Hefajat audience, Selimullah then nayeb-e-ameer, holds the uttered the slogan twice: post of nayeb-e-ameer in "Sheikh Hasinar dui gale, both the Olama Committee juta maro tale tale." Many in and IOJ. the audience held their

Another Islami Oikya Jote leader Moinuddin Ruhi is the Hefajat's joint secretary general.

ities. Karim informed the

Nepal.

Bangladesh.

while addressing the crowd. The language used by the

Govt given three weeks FROM PAGE 1 It, however, was not on the scene when the Shahbagh movement started on February 5. Its presence was felt with the killing of a blogger, who was branded as an atheist. Yesterday's rally was the culmination of a propaganda

orchestrated by the Jamaat-e-Islami that organisers of the Shahbagh movement were atheists. The alleged defamation of Islam was at the heart of the campaign. The BNP and Jamaat have thrown their weight behind

Hefajat, which also demands that the government declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim, demolish all sculptures in the capital, ban free mingling of men and women, and scrap women policy and education policy.

A BNP team led by its standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain joined the rally in a show of solidarity, and so did a delegation of the Jatiya Party, a component of the Awami League-led ruling

grand alliance. A number of Islamists carried Bangladesh flags to the rally, which they waved

throughout the programme. In their addresses, many Hefajat leaders came down hard on liberal thinking.

"Girls and boys are involved in adultery at Shahbagh," Abdul Quddus, a Hefajat leader, said. "It happens because of the current education policy that has to be scrapped. Islamic education system has to be intro-

duced." Another leader named Qutubuddin said, "Dhaka, the city of mosques, has been turned into a city of idols and atheists. This cannot be allowed."

Enamul Huq, a Hefajat leader, said: "The songs and dances shown on television are obscene. These must be stopped."

7.1 quake hits Indonesia

AP, Jakarta

A powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit a remote part of eastern Indonesia yesterday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, an official said.

The temblor struck about 75 km underground in Papua province, according to US Geological Survey. The quake was felt across

many parts of Papua, including the capital Jayapura and the copper town of Timika and Wamena, another town in the mountains, he said. Residents ran from their houses in panic, and many remained outside fearing aftershocks.