

Hefajat defames Islam: Scholars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hefajat-e Islam by its "extremist ideology and practices" is defaming Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as well as instigating atheism, said Islamic scholars of Chittagong at a press conference in the port city yesterday.

Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat held the press conference at its Chittagong city office ahead of its pre-announced grand rally to be held in the city's Laldighi tomorrow.

"We are not a political organisation and we neither favour nor oppose any political party," said SUM Abdus Samad of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat.

"We have arranged our rally demanding punishment for bloggers, organisations and any other persons defaming Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), creating anarchy and engaging in terrorism and destruction in the name of Islam," he added.

Advocate Mosaheb Uddin Bakhtiar, secretary member of Ahle Sunnat, read out the statement at the event highlighting the preparation of its grand rally.

Peyar Mohammad, chairman of Gawsia Committee Bangladesh, and MA Matin, chief coordinator of Ahle Sunnat, among others, spoke.



Overseas job seekers gather to get smart cards, the clearance certificates for migration, at the office of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training at Kakrail in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Protest against offensive story

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of journalists, writers and activists demonstrated near the Prothom Alo office yesterday against an offensive short story published in the Pahela Baishakh supplement of the daily.

The protesters under the banner "Amra K'Jon" (A few of us) urged all media to be more responsible and refrain from producing stories demeaning to women.

Hasnat Abdul Hye's story, "TV Camerar Shamne Meyeti" (The girl in front of the TV camera), generated widespread outrage, which prompted Prothom Alo and the writer to apologise to readers and withdraw the story from its online version on April 15.

The protesters felt that the apologies were not enough. They said the story had offended the Shabbagh movement and the women involved with it.

Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, journalist Munni Shaha, General Secretary of Nari Sangbadik Kendra Parvin Sultana Jhuma, rights activists Fawzia Khondker and Shipra Bose, and Executive Director of Transcom Foods Akku Chowdhury, among others, took part in the protest.

APPEALS ON SAYEDEE'S VERDICT Hearing starts May 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed May 2 for starting hearing on the appeals separately filed by the government and Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee against a war crimes trial verdict.

The Appellate Division of SC also asked the government and defence to submit separate concise statements on their respective appeals to it by May 2.

The court fixed the date of the hearing, and passed the order after Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed for fixing a date.

On February 28, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Sayedee to death on two charges but found him guilty on eight of the 20 charges brought against him. On March 28, Sayedee appealed to the SC against the death penalty, and sought acquittal of the war crimes charges.

The government the same day filed another appeal with the SC seeking capital punishment for Sayedee on all the charges he was found guilty.

PRAYER FOR DEATH SENTENCE

SC finishes listening to Mollah verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman yesterday finished reading to the Supreme Court the war crimes verdict against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah as the court was hearing a government appeal seeking the death penalty for the convict.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 jailed Mollah for life on February 5 after he was found guilty of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

But the government filed an appeal on March 3 seeking that he be sentenced to death.

The additional attorney general said five specific charges of killing hundreds of peo-

ple in 1971 were proved beyond doubt against the Jamaat leader. He was directly and indirectly involved in killing either civilians or freedom fighters, he told the apex court.

Rahman also mentioned the charges of Mollah's involvement in killing pro-liberation poet Meherun Nesa, her mother and two brothers, Hazrat Ali Laskar and his family members, Khandakar Abu Taleb and 344 other people at Mirpur in 1971.

The apex court was hearing the government's petition for the fourth day yesterday. It will further hear the appeal on Sunday.

Yesterday, the additional attorney general also read out the charges of killing hundreds of unarmed people at Keraniganj, which was not proved at the tribunal against Mollah.

ATTACK ON DWIP AT BUET

Arrested student confesses crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) was arrested from the campus on Wednesday evening in connection with the attack on its student on April 9.

The arrested, Md Mezbah Uddin, a fourth-year student of the civil engineering department, was yesterday produced before a Dhaka court where he confessed to the attack, said Detective Branch (DB) of Police Additional Deputy Commissioner Sanwar Hossain.

On April 9, Arif Rayhan Dwip, a third year student of the mechanical engineering department and also a member of the convening committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League Buet unit, was stabbed at its Nazrul Islam Hall.

During interrogation, Mezbah said he attacked Dwip as he [Dwip] and some other BCL activists assaulted an Imam of the Buet for supplying foods among the participants of the rally of Hefajat-e Islam on April 6, said the DB official.

EU to give €3.6m to cut disaster risks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union will provide €3.65 million to help vulnerable communities in Bangladesh to reduce the risks arising from recurring floods, cyclones and other natural disasters.

The funds will be used to better prepare both schools and communities in rural and urban settings for disasters, in partnership with local stakeholders and authorities.

The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission is providing the fund to scale up and duplicate disaster preparedness mechanisms in the areas at risk.

Around 6 lakh people across Bangladesh will benefit directly from these activities, said a press release of EU yesterday.

The projects will be implemented by three consortia, respectively led by Action Aid, Save the Children, and Caritas in Sathkira, Khulna, Gaibanda, Sirajganj, Kishoreganj, Barguna, Patuakhali and Netrakona districts.

Obituary

METRO DESK



M Shamsul Haque, chairman of Tairunnessa Memorial Medical

College, died in the capital's Apollo Hospitals on Wednesday. He was 70.

He is survived by his wife Jahanara Haque, two daughters, and a son, says a press release.

Haque hailed from Berkuri village in Rajanagar of Moulvibazar.

He was buried in Banani graveyard.

His qulkhwani will be held after Asr prayers today.

JUDGE MOZAMMEL PASSES AWAY

Dhaka bar assoc pays tribute

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Bar Association yesterday halted all proceedings of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court and the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka to pay tribute to a judge who died in France on April 12.

Judge Md Mozammel Hossain of Special Judge's Court-3 in Dhaka died of brain haemorrhage. He joined as an assistant judge on February 22 of 1984.

After the namaz-e-janaza of Mozammel yesterday, Kazi Md Nazibullah Hiru, president of the bar association, announced a halt to all the proceedings of all Dhaka courts for a day.

He was on a month-long leave since April 5. On the day, he left for America to visit his family members and later he flew to France to see the Eiffel Tower.

Mozammel's body was flown back to Bangladesh Wednesday night.

Five die from electrocution

METRO DESK

Five people died from electrocution in different places of the country on Wednesday and yesterday.

A correspondent from Chandpur reports, two members of a family were electrocuted to death while another sustained electrical injuries at their residence in Jamuna road area at Chandpur city yesterday.

The dead are Abul Hossain, 55, and his daughter Farzana Begum, 18.

Injured Rahima Aktar, another daughter of Abul, was admitted to Chandpur General Hospital.

Abul came in contact with a live electric wire on the rooftop of the house. Farzana was electrocuted as she touched her father while Rahima was injured as she tried to rescue them.

Our Chuadanga correspondent adds, a construction worker was killed after he

came in contact with a live electric wire while watering the roof of an under-construction mosque in village Shorojganj Jugirhuda in Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased is Ameer, of the upazila. Ameer's co-worker Abdullah, 35, was injured when he touched Ameer.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, a worker of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) was killed and another injured while repairing an electric line in West Bakalia area in Chittagong city yesterday.

The deceased is Habibur Rahman Lebu, 28, of Mymensingh. The injured is Md Jafar.

Meanwhile, an Ansar member died as he touched a live electric wire while cutting a branch of a tree at Patiya upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The victim is Tarikul Islam, 25, of Khagrachhari.

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