

All faiths should fight terrorism

Ahmadiyya peace symposium told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of all faiths should jointly launch an idealistic battle against terrorists, who are killing innocents in the name of religion, religious leaders of different communities and eminent persons said at a peace symposium yesterday.

Referring to the Liberation War, jurist Kamal Hossain said, "There had been blows against a secular Bangladesh many times in history. But at the end justice always prevailed."

"Politics in the name of religion must be banned," said writer and researcher Shahriar Kabir, pointing out how extremist factions in every religion use faith to justify killing people of other faiths.

The symposium was organised by Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Bangladesh at the National Museum.

International Crimes Tribunal prosecutor Tureen Afroz asked whether a state needs a religion. "A state cannot fast, pray or go to heaven -- why then does it need a religion?"

Ven Shunandaprio Bhikkhu, from the Buddhist temple at Badda, said the breeding places of communalism should be destroyed.

Father Tapan D'Rozario said throughout history more people died in religious wars than in natural disasters.

Journalist Julfikar Ali Manik said there seemed to be a dearth of courage in supporting bloggers, who were persecuted by Islamic terrorists. "We need to increase our

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The Department of Environment brings out a procession in the capital's Agargaon yesterday to create awareness among people to keep the city clean.



AL leader MA Aziz passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MA Aziz, acting president of Dhaka city unit of Awami League, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. He was 67.

"Aziz died of a cardiac arrest at the intensive care unit (ICU)," city AL Joint General Secretary Shahey Alam Murad told The Daily Star.

He left behind his wife and three sons.

The AL leader was buried at Azimpur graveyard following three namaz-e-janazas near his Hussaini Dalan residence, before the AL central office and at Dhaka Alia Madrasa in Bakshibazar.

President Abdul Hamid, AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other party leaders expressed deep shock at the death.

Hasina stayed at Aziz's residence for about 40 minutes, offered prayers for his eternal peace and consoled the bereaved family members.

Aziz started his political career with Bangladesh Chhatra League. He was the general secretary of Dhaka city AL with Mozaffar Hossain Palta as its president.

He became acting president of Dhaka city AL in 2007 after the death of Mohammad Hanif.

Saleh Ahmed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Freedom fighter Saleh Ahmed, a lawyer, died of a cardiac arrest Friday at a Dhaka hospital, aged 79.

He left behind his wife, a son, Ahmed Humayun Kabir, The Daily Star Pabna correspondent, and a daughter. He was buried at sadar upazila's Arifur graveyard, after a namaz-e-janaza at Pabna Alia Madrasa after Zohr prayers.

Sylhet pvt university student murder sparks protests

Human chain demands capital punishment for killers; 10 students suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Teachers and students of Sylhet International University yesterday demanded that the killers of a student, Kazi Habib, be arrested and given capital punishment.

They raised the demands at a human chain at the private university where its Board of Trustees Chairman Shamim Ahmed and Vice Chancellor Susanto Kumar Das expressed solidarity with the protesters.

The demonstrators, who also brought out a procession on the campus in the city's Shamimabad area, threatened to launch a tougher movement if their demands are not met.

On Tuesday, Kazi Habib, 22, a BBA 4th

year student was stabbed to death allegedly by a group led by Hosain Md Sagor, who is an activist of the city unit of Bangladesh Chhara League, campus sources said.

Some students, seeking anonymity, said he was attacked as he had not campaigned in favour of Sagor during a recent election of the city unit of BCL.

District BCL President Shahriar Samad, however, said personal feud led to the murder.

Following the murder, the university authorities suspended 10 students, including Sagor on Friday, the VC said.

The family filed a murder case accusing the 10 and an outsider.

Kotwali police Officer-in-Charge Md Suhel said the accused are on the run.

'VERBAL ABUSE' OF TEACHER

JU issues notice to three accused BCL men for their account

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) authority yesterday sent a notice asking three Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists to state their role in an incident on Thursday following which a history department teacher filed a complaint with the proctor's office.

Prof Mozahidul Islam, in yesterday's complaint, said the three verbally abused and attempted to assault him when he told them to stop manhandling a young woman and beating a young man accompanying her at Chaurangy area of the campus around 5:00pm.

Some senior students intervened and "rescued me", he said. Proctor Prof Tapal Kumar Saha said the replies were sought by January 27.

The accused are residents of Al Biruni Hall. Abu Sadat Sayem is a master's student of government and politics and Jahid Hassan and Jamshed Alam second year students of Bangla and international relations respectively.

Their phones were found switched off when The Daily Star called up seeking comments.

Acknowledging that they

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Sust road crash kills college teacher

A local resident also dies, head of mechanical engineering dept, two others injured; other accidents kill two more, hurt four

CITY DESK

Four people died and seven got injured in road accidents in three districts yesterday and Friday.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports, two people died and three got injured in a road crash at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) when the driver of a private car lost control and hit a roadside tree yesterday.

The deceased were Ataur Rahman, a teacher of Chhatak Degree College in Sunamganj, and Gias Uddin, 65, from the locality.

Prof Dr Ariful Islam, 38, head of Sust's mechanical engineering department, Abul Kalam, his driver, and another unidentified person, were injured in the crash.

The injured were admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said Akhtar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station.

Our Bagerhat correspondent reports, a man was killed and his wife and son got gravely injured when a passenger-bus rammed their motorbike on Bagerhat-Pirojpur highway near Shibpur of Kachua Upazila yesterday.

Nur Mohammad Molla, 45, son of Abdul Karim Molla of Chandpur was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital along with his wife, Parvin Begum, 32, and six-year son Saikat where the on-duty doctor declared him dead. The wife and child are still under treatment.

Our Barisal correspondent reports, a man died and two others were injured when a BRIC bus rammed their motorbike on Barisal-Dhaka highway on Friday.

The deceased was Md Sayem, 26, son of Tulu Mia of Mohanganj and injured were Sajib, 24, son of Babul Molla of Chandpasha and Shuva, 20, son of Shahjahan Haoladar of Babuganj upazila.



Teachers and students of Sylhet International University form a human chain in front of the campus in the city yesterday, demanding death penalty for the killers of the university student, Kazi Habib, who was stabbed to death on the campus on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Cold wave may persist for

FROM PAGE 3
light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during mid night till noon," it added.

Forecasting officers said the average temperature would drop by 1-2 degrees Celsius today in most regions.

Rajshahi and Syedpur were the coldest yesterday with the temperature hitting 8.4 degrees Celsius while Teknaf remained the warmest with 26.5 degrees Celsius, they said.

Wednesday's rainfall could be the reason behind the cold spell, they added.

Historic Mass Upsurge

FROM PAGE 3
In separate messages, the president and the prime minister recalled the sacrifice of those who laid down their lives on this day and highlighted the significance of the event.

Both prayed for the salvation of the martyrs.

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IN FOND MEMORY

Mrs. Anwara Islam, died on 24-01-2006 - exactly the same day and date as her husband Mr. Sirajul Islam who died twenty four years earlier in 1982.
Please join us in praying to the Almighty Allah to grant them eternal peace.
Lubna, Akbar & Duree (Children)
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