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Terrorism, killings forbidden in Islam

Islamic scholars issue anti-militancy fatwa, dispel misconception about Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After issuing a set of fatwas against militancy, a section of Islamic scholars yesterday stressed the need for taking their message to the masses to stop militancy and violence in the name of religion.

Bangladesh Jamiyatul Ulama (BJU), a national body of Islamic scholars, issued the fatwas through a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, saying that those killing people in the name of religion were heading for hell.

The edicts came in the wake of continued attacks on religious minorities, intellectuals and secular writers across the country. Such killings, mostly by hacking with machetes, have risen over the past few months.

Signatures of 1,01,850 Islamic clerics, including 9,320 women, have been collected in support of the fatwas, prepared in light of the Quran and Hadith.

Explaining the initiative, Farid Uddin Masoud, chairman of Jamiyatul Ulama, said the law enforcement agencies alone cannot resist the criminals who are ready to kill themselves in the name of religion. The first thing needed is to dispel the mili-

tants' misconceptions about Islam, he added.

Fatwas are more powerful than one lakh weapons and they will be able to curb terrorism largely, said Masoud, also the convener of an 11-member panel of scholars.

He urged imams, ulema, teachers, social workers, NGO workers and people with good conscience to spread out the edicts. "We have to take stand unitedly against this [terrorism] to save ourselves."

Masoud, also the grand imam of the country's largest Eid congregation at Sholakia of Kishoreganj, said it is a matter of great regret that some criminals were resorting to terrorism and spreading panic in the name of Islam to serve their own interests. But Islam never supports terrorism and thus it is illegal and forbidden in the religion.

Killing non-Muslims and carrying out attacks on churches or temples are heinous crimes, he added.

The fatwas say killing of innocent people indiscriminately is not legal in Islam; killing of children, women, and old and weak people who don't take part in a war is strictly prohibited, even during the war it is not

PHOTO ON PAGE 10 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The cache of firearms and ammunition recovered from a canal in Uttara yesterday. Inset: Divers from the fire service scouring the canal.

PHOTO: BBC BANGLA/STAR



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Governor Nam hearing public complaints at his house.

Gyeonggi Province of South Korea

Governor house opened to public

SHAKHAWAT LITON, back from South Korea

In the run up to the gubernatorial election in 2014, Nam Kyung-pil promised to transform the governor house from a cold and closed space into a warm and open one for people of the province.

He came up with innovative ideas to keep his promise within three months of assuming office as governor of Gyeonggi province of South Korea. He opened his official residence to the public for various purposes such as wedding.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

IG prisons threatened via text

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin yesterday received a threat to his life through short message service.

Iftekhar received the text from the mobile phone number 01756817269 around 4:00pm, he told The Daily Star.

"Mr. IG, Have you gone mad? Ramzan Eid is upcoming, at this moment you sent my brother to Jessore Jail!! without any reason. This time I will not spare you," a part of the text read.

The sender, claiming to be a journalist, said he would start a "war" against the IG prisons.

The threat comes less than a week after the head Hindu priest of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission in the capital was threatened.

A man handed over a letter containing the threat to a mission staff around Wednesday noon.

RK MISSION THREAT

Hunt on to nab culprits

STAR REPORT

The police are yet to identify and arrest one involved in issuing a death threat to the principal of Dhaka Ramakrishna Mission.

"We have deployed teams at Kishoreganj, Gazipur, Wari, Uttara and other parts of the country, which are mentioned as temporary addresses of the so-called sender AB Siddique," said Zeahad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station.

Apart from police, members of other law-enforcement agencies have also been working on the issue.

Meanwhile, the RK mission in Belur Math of Kolkata said the mission's followers in India saw with relief Bangladeshis expressing shock and condemning the death threat.

"The people of Bangladesh are the protectors of the mission. They have protected it till date and we believe they will protect it in the future," said Shubhakar Ananda, a spokesperson of the RK Mission in Belur Math.

Security has been beefed up at the mission in the capital's Gopibagh, said Syed Nurul Islam, deputy commissioner (Wari division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

CHARGES OF 'MANSLAUGHTER'

Three lions get 'life sentence' in India

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Three man-eating lions have received a 'life sentence' after they were identified as having consumed humans. The male and two females will be kept in captivity for the rest of their lives, having been deemed too dangerous to be released.

A total of 17 lions were rounded up after a 14-year-old boy was dragged away while sleeping outside his house in the Gir National Forest in Gujarat state, India.

The boy was the third person killed since April in the area, SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushiya

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Magura sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Kamal Hossain Sarder, 40, of Shawladanga in the upazila, was accused in five robbery cases filed with different police stations of the district, police said.

On information that a group of robbers was preparing to commit a robbery by blocking the Kushiya-Khulna highway with logs, a patrol team of the police station went to raid the area, said Azmol Huda, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station.

The robbers opened fire on the law enforcers. A gunfight took place as police fired back, the OC said, adding that at one stage, robbers fled the scene.

Police later recovered the body of Kamal from SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PRAN UHT Milk

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
13	19		6-52
14	20	3-39	6-52
15	21	3-39	6-52

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 19

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
3-45	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-15	
JAMAAT	3-50	1-15	5-15	7-02	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A girl sitting in a rickshaw with a basket of Kadam flowers near the TSC on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. She was about to take the flowers, which herald the beginning of the monsoon, to a nearby place for sale. Today is the fifth day of Bangla month of Ashar -- the first of the two months that make the season.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nato accused of warmongering

Germany sharply reacts to huge military drills near Russia

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The German foreign minister has accused Nato of "warmongering" with exercises in Eastern Europe that could worsen tensions with Russia.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier warned that extensive military drill and deployment could worsen rather than improve regional security.

"What we should not do now is inflame the situation with sabre-rattling and warmongering," he told the Bild am Sonntag newspaper to be published today.

"Whoever believes that a symbolic tank parade on the alliance's eastern border will bring security is mistaken.

"We are well-advised not to create pretexts to renew an SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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