

'This Bangladesh is Faraaz's Bangladesh'

Says Asaduzzaman Noor
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor yesterday said the people of Bangladesh rejected terrorism and that this Bangladesh is Faraaz's Bangladesh.

"In the country, there are many families and parents who refused to accept the bodies of militants. This Bangladesh is Faraaz's Bangladesh ... Faraaz who did not desert his friends and sacrificed his life there [at Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan]," he said at a programme in Chittagong.

Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain was brutally killed along with 19 other hostages in a militant attack at the café on July 1. "But at the same time, we have to think that some people, some forces living amidst us are giving birth to militants skilfully..." the minister said at the programme organised to mark the silver jubilee of Proma Recitation Organisation in the port city.

The best way to prevent militant ideals was to increase cultural activities, he said, adding that terrorism and communalism should be eradicated from the society through cultural activities.

Premier Anupam Sen, Daily Azadi Editor MA Malek and Proma President Rashed Hasan, among others, spoke at the programme.

Mahmudur

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bail," Senior Jail Superintendent Proshanto Kumar Banik told The Daily Star.

Mahmudur was implicated in over 70 cases, including one for allegedly plotting to abduct and murder Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

A former energy adviser and pro-BNP journalist, Mahmudur had been in jail since his arrest at his newspaper office on April 11, 2013 on charges of sedition and publishing a Skype conversation between former International Crimes Tribunal chairman Justice Nizamul Huq and an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin.

The Supreme Court on October 31 upheld the bail he was granted in the case involving Joy and paved the way for his release.

BNP leaders SM Jahid Hossain and Farhad Halim, among others, greeted Mahmudur at the jail gate yesterday. He was first arrested on June 2, 2010 in a case filed for allegedly preventing police from carrying out their duties. Later, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for contempt of court.

In August last year, a Dhaka court sentenced Mahmudur to three years in prison for not submitting his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission deliberately.

Law enforcers had locked the Bangla daily's press in April 2013. Later, the newspaper authorities suspended its publication alleging government obstruction.

No arrest

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requiring permission to arrest government employees. They had said it went against the constitution.

According to the draft, if any criminal offence was committed by a civil servant whilst discharging duty, no court could take the case without the government's permission. No authority could arrest the civil servant either.

If such a staffer was convicted and sentenced to or under three years in prison, except in cases filed in connection with corruption and moral turpitude, the president's decision on keeping him or her in service would be final, the draft law said.

Any government service holder convicted and sentenced for over three years or sentenced in any term in a corruption and moral turpitude case would be fired instantly.

If an allegation of corruption was proved against any official, the government could sack or remove him or her but it cannot do it without filing a departmental case, said sources.

The proposed law has 16 chapters, which are regarding jurisdictions and control of the government, appointments, promotions and postings of civil servants, discipline and behaviour of public servants, criminal offences, retirement, and ensuring government service.

Sources said the draft recommended tests for promotion for civil servant and if any government official failed to pass in four consecutive attempts then the government could send the employee into forced retirement.

Civil servants would not be allowed to have any political affiliation.

In the case of postings and transfers of civil servants, the draft proposes that an official without five years' experience at the field level cannot be posted or transferred to the secretariat.

According to the draft, people holding constitutional posts, staff of the judiciary, Supreme Court employees, armed forces personnel, railway employees, employees of any temporary commission, employees of local government bodies, public university teachers and employees, and employees of development projects would be outside

3 'JMB men' surrender

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"While under a de-radicalisation programme, the trio will be monitored as they might be at risk of attacks from militants for shunning the path of militancy," he told The Daily Star.

He said the Rapid Action Battalion will take measures to ensure their security and rehabilitate them.

With the three, eight suspected militants have so far surrendered to the home minister.

Earlier on October 5, alleged JMB members Abdul Hakim, 22, and Mahadul Hasan alias Bijoy, 17, surrendered at an anti-militancy gathering in Bogra.

On August 11, three suspected members of outlawed militant group Hizb-ut Tahrir surrendered to police in Jessore. They are Saddam Yasir alias Sajal, 32, Raihan Ahmed, 20, and Mehedi Hasan, 20.

At the programme yesterday, the three suspected militants said they felt guilty for joining the JMB.

According to a Rab press release, JMB trio Masud, Hafizur and Akteruzzaman were brainwashed and radicalised by a network which also radicalised Shafuil, one of the July 7 Sholakia attackers.

It said Shafuil, who was captured during the attack and later killed in an "encounter" with the Rab, studied up to class VIII at Noorpur Salafia Cadet Madrasa which was also attended by the three militants.

Madrasa peon Ariful, now in jail

in a murder case, as a local JMB recruiter first motivated and radicalised Shafuil and later Masud, Hafizur and Akteruzzaman. After giving them physical training, he used to send the newly recruited JMB members to other areas, the release stated.

Ariful later took Masud, a class IX student of Rameswar Darul Uluha Fazil Madrasa; Hafizur, a tenth grader at Kalabari Dakhil Madrasa; and Akteruzzaman, a class IX student of Narayanpur Misbahul Ulum Qawmi and Hafizia Madrasa, to a mess at Gurhati of Ghoraghat upazila.

Ariful trained them in making crude bombs at the mess and they also made several bombs, the Rab said.

The three militants were assigned to carry out subversive activities, but they went into hiding and later changed their mind to surrender to law enforcers as militant activities came under widespread criticism after the Gulshan and Sholakia attacks.

The three then talked to their family members who inspired them to surrender and took the militants to the Rab, said the press release.

Chaired by Rab-13 Commanding Officer ATM Atiqullah, yesterday's anti-militancy rally was also attended by State Minister for LGRD Moshirur Rahman Ranga, local lawmaker Tipu Munshi, Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed and Rangpur Mayor Sharfuddin Ahmed.

Our Dinajpur correspondent contributed to this report.

Not equipped

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Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon of the Burn Unit, said four more burn victims were being given treatment at the ICU and four others at the High Dependency Unit.

The conditions of all the eight were critical, said Partha, adding that 12 other injured were taking treatment at post-operative and general ward.

Their conditions were not yet out of danger, the doctor informed.

Akhi's father Ashraful Islam, a rickshaw-puller who lives at Baipail, said his daughter joined the factory with the help of a female friend and without informing them.

Ashraful, who hailed from Mithapukur of Rangpur, added he and his wife had strictly forbidden their daughter to continue with the job.

"We wanted to send her to school and raise her as an educated person," he lamented.

The father further said he had last talked to his daughter at a local hospital in Ashulia where she was whimpering in pain and could hardly say anything.

At least 26 female workers have suffered burns, many of them critically, after a fire broke out at the gas lighter factory on Tuesday afternoon.

Locals said the fire engulfed the factory building after an explosion. Firefighters with nine fire engines

from different fire stations doused the blazes after two hours of frantic effort.

Twenty-one of the injured women, aged between 14 and 40, were admitted to the DMCH Burn Unit and five to Enam Medical College Hospital (EMCH) in Savar. Mohsinul Qadir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia police, said no case was filed in connection with the incident as of yesterday afternoon.

Enamul Haque, lawmaker for Savar, visited the injured at the DMCH, said hospital sources.

DMCH Deputy Director Khwaja Abdul Gofur said they were giving maximum importance to ensure treatment of the burn victims.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Md Sarwar Bari of Dhaka said they gave Tk 20,000 to the deceased's family and Tk 10,000 each to the families of the injured yesterday.

Dhaka Export Processing Zone Senior Station Officer Abdul Hamid, a member of the probe committee, said they found no Fire Service and Civil Defence certificate at the factory.

This kind of factory must have such a certificate, he added.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Communist Party of Bangladesh in separate statements yesterday demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits responsible for the deadly fire after a fair probe.

BNP defends proposal

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effective and satisfactory results if military is used only as a strike force. The proposal for deploying armed forces with magisterial power was made so that the forces could take immediate actions."

Khurshid Alam Khan, a Supreme Court lawyer, told The Daily Star that both BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Fakhru made misconceived statements about giving magisterial power to the armed forces during elections.

Magisterial power is tantamount to judicial power, he said, adding that neither police nor the army should be given the power during elections.

Khurshid said if the army or police were given the power, it would be a "miscarriage of justice".

In the wake of debate over Khaleda Zia's 13-point proposal for forming the next Election Commission, the party came up with the explanations. The proposal for deployment of armed forces with magisterial power during parliamentary elections drew criticism from various quarters.

Praising the media for initiating the debate over the proposals, the BNP leader said it was the party's responsibility to give a detailed explanation about the issues.

As to why the BNP did not press for making a separate law for forming the EC, Fakhru said if any law or act was passed by the incumbent parliament with "154 unelected members", it would not have any moral basis and would be weak. Such a law might be unacceptable to many political parties and even to the people.

On whether the proposals curtailed the president's power, he said there was no proposal for curtailing the president's power; rather the proposals would assist the president and keep his image above all controversies.

Fakhru said the party floated the proposals keeping the constitution in mind and hence, they did not think the constitution was violated.

He said the personal secretary to Khaleda Zia spoke with the president's military secretary over telephone and sought an appointment for a three-member BNP delegation. But the military secretary was yet to respond. And so, the party yesterday sent a letter to President Md Abdul Hamid, seeking an appointment.

"We expect that considering the proposals with due importance, the president will take an initiative to resolve the country's prevailing crisis."

Urging all to shun obstinacy without further delay,

he said forming a representative parliament is imperative to build a democratic framework in the country.

"And to that end, there is no alternative to an independent, neutral and brave election commission for peaceful handover of power."

Fakhru asked all stakeholders to form a national consensus on the basis of Khaleda Zia's proposals and work together for sustainable development of the country.

The tenure of the current EC, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, will end in February next year.

At a press conference on Friday, Khaleda placed some proposals for the next Election Commission. The Awami League, however, rejected the proposals, terming them "hollow" and "a mockery" before the nation.

Bangladesh

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Pakistan and Afghanistan, with a ranking of 146 and 164, are behind Bangladesh while Sri Lanka, Bhutan, India, Myanmar and Nepal did well with rankings of 116, 117, 138, 140 and 142 respectively, according to the index.

Bangladesh ranks 30th and the fifth lowest among the Asia and Pacific region countries, according to the report.

The report says around 14.4 percent people in Bangladesh use internet through mobile phones, 2.4 percent use fixed broadband internet while 13.5 percent use broadband.

All the top seven economies in the region — the Republic of Korea, the global top performer, Hong Kong (China), Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and Macao (China)— have IDI values of above 7.5.

They are all high-income economies, which have maintained the high IDI performance throughout the period since the first publication of the index.

The report is widely recognised as the repository of the world's most reliable and impartial global data and analysis on the state of global ICT development.

Governments, financial institutions and private sector analysts in the world extensively rely on the index, ITU said in a statement.

Most people have access to internet but many do not actually use it, according to the report.

The spread of 3G and 4G networks across the world make the internet increasingly available to more and more people, it said.

Handbag

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items, including two mobile phones, an iPad and three passports, which were in the handbag. Rubel had already spent Tk 4,000 to 5,000 of what was in the bag, police said.

Police said Saifur Rahman, an assistant sub-inspector of Police Headquarters, who is a neighbour of Rubel in Shanir Akhra area in the capital, identified him on Tuesday night in a Facebook photo where he was seen fleeing with the bag.

The ASI then informed his senior officials about the matter which led to the arrest of Rubel from his home around 9:00am yesterday.

Based on Rubel's information, police later arrested Shams from his shop along with two mobile phones and the iPad, said Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Briefing journalists at the DMP media centre yesterday, the police official said as soon as the ambassador approached to light a candle in that programme on Monday, Rubel took her handbag from her chair and stood near her, giving an impression that he was with her.

At one stage, he left with the bag. He then spent some time at Suhrawardy Uddyan before going home with the bag.

The next day, he went to Bashundhara City Shopping Complex and sold the two phones and the iPad to Shams. Shams gave him Tk 10,000 and promised to give him more after selling those, the police official said.

Rubel then threw away the bag from the fifth floor of the complex before leaving. Finding the bag, security men of the complex looked for its owner and made an announcement through loudspeakers of the complex. They handed it over to the authorities concerned of the complex as nobody claimed it, Baten said.

Police are looking for the gang leader who told Rubel to steal the bag from the programme.

Rubel, of Barisal, admitted his involvement in a number of thefts, the police official said.

Replying to a query, Baten said police would take action against the mobile phone shop involved in reselling stolen mobile devices.

Preferring anonymity, a police official told The Daily Star that Rubel stole the bag, thinking that the foreigner's bag might carry foreign currencies and valuable items.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Cuelenaere thanked the police and the Bangladesh government for their cooperation in recovering the handbag, said the Embassy of the Netherlands in Bangladesh in a Facebook post yesterday.

Air, land ports

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The two-hour mayhem was unleashed over a Facebook post from the account of a local fisherman, "hurting the religious sentiment" of Muslims.

Unidentified criminals set fire to at least six more houses of Hindus at different villages in Nasirnagar upazila on November 5 and torched another Hindu house at Changapur village in the same upazila on November 13.

6 Filipinos charged

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initiated and carried out by the Jupiter branch.

"We welcome the charges as an opportunity to conclusively prove that our executives acted properly and had no knowledge or participation in any money laundering. We are confident that the cases filed against these RCBC officers will be dismissed," RCBC CEO Gil A Buenaventura said.

Lorenzo V Tan, who was RCBC president at the time of the cyber theft, resigned in May.

Unknown cyber criminals tried to steal nearly \$1 billion from the Bangladesh Bank in February in what was one of the biggest bank heists ever.

They succeeded in transferring some \$81 million via an account at the New York Federal Reserve to four accounts in fake names at the Jupiter branch.

Most of the cash was quickly withdrawn and laundered through multiple channels.

On November 11, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) received \$15.25 million from the AMLC, nine months after hackers stole the money.

The rest of the funds changed hands several times and vanished in the Philippines casino industry, reported Reuters.

So far, the AMLC has accounted for \$60 million of the stolen money. Of

them, \$15 million has been traced to RCBC client, casino owner and agent Kim Wong, \$28 million to Solaire Casino and \$17 million is believed to be with Filipino remittance company Philrem, which the latter has denied.

But the remaining \$21 million is yet to be traced.

According to a probe carried out by a three-member team led by former BB governor Mohammed Farashuddin, at least \$54 million of the \$81 million that ended up in the Philippines could be recovered.

A high-powered Bangladesh delegation, including Law Minister Anisul Huq and BB Governor Fazle Kabir, is scheduled to meet senior Philippines officials on November 28 to discuss further recovery.

No arrests have been made despite investigations by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, Interpol, Bangladesh police and authorities in the Philippines.

RCBC client Wong had admitted during the Philippines Senate inquiry that he received millions of the loot from two Chinese gamblers but did not know it was stolen.

He denies involvement in the heist and has returned \$15 million of around \$35 million he said he received.

Poverty landed

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Lovely Akter who suffered 30 percent burns and Fatema Akter 20 percent burns.

The Daily Star could talk to their eldest sister Bilkis Akter who was running around to make necessary arrangements for their treatment.

Bilkis said her father who worked as a security guard died five years ago. Before his death he married her off.

Immediately after marriage, she took a job at a garments factory and began sending Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 to her mother to run the family.

Her three younger sisters were going to school at the time. As the sisters grew up, the family began struggling to meet the expenses with the meagre amount that Bilkis sent home.

Seventeen-year-old Lovely and 15-year-old Fatema then decided to give up education and work instead to share the family's burden. The youngest sister is 10-year-old.

Since Lovely and Fatema were underage, they were refused jobs at garments factories, Bilkis said. Finally, they got work at the gas lighter factory on the outskirts of the capital last month, which would pay them Tk 4,500 a month each.

The teenage girls had been working 12 hours a day but still they were happy that their income would ease the sufferings of the family, Bilkis said.

This month they managed to send their mother Sajia Begum Tk 5,500 from their half month's salary.

Without any land and husband, the family began to hope for days somewhat better than the days gone when the news of fire came as a blow to Sajia. She was unable to talk yesterday.

Bilkis said she resigned to attend to her sisters since her employer forbade her from going on leave. She could not talk to her sisters as their faces and eyes were swollen.

At least 26 female workers sustained burn injuries, many of them critically, in the fire that broke out at Colour Match BD Ltd in Girabo area on November 22.

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তারিখঃ ০৬ অগ্রহায়ণ, ১৪২৩

২০ নভেম্বর, ২০১৬

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে উদ্ভাবনীমূলক কাজের জন্য আর্থিক প্রণোদনা প্রদান সম্পর্কিত নীতিমালা-২০১৬-এর আলোকে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শর্তে ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- আর্থিক অনুদান প্রদানের জন্য উদ্ভাবনীমূলক গবেষণা প্রকল্প প্রস্তাবের ক্ষেত্রেসমূহ (ক) সকলের জন্য শিক্ষার সুযোগ সম্প্রসারণ, ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের বারে পড়া রোধ এবং অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক শিক্ষা নিশ্চিতকল্পে প্রণীত প্রস্তাব, (খ) শিক্ষার মানোন্নয়ন, যথা: শিক্ষাক্রম, পাঠদান পদ্ধতি, শিক্ষায় তথ্য প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহার ও শিক্ষা পরিবেশ উন্নয়নকল্পে প্রণীত প্রস্তাব, (গ) শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থাপনার মানোন্নয়নে প্রণীত প্রস্তাব, এবং (ঘ) সরকার কর্তৃক সময় সময় নির্ধারিত শিক্ষা সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্য কোন বিষয়।
- আর্থিক অনুদানের পরিমাণ: শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে উদ্ভাবনী গবেষণার ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ২০,০০,০০০/- (বিশ লক্ষ) টাকা অনুদান প্রদান করা হইবে।
- চূড়ান্ত বিবেচিত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পে চুক্তি করিতে হইবে।
- অনুদান অর্থ ব্যয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কোনরূপ অনিয়ম হইলে কিংবা কোন প্রকার অনিয়মের অভিযোগ প্রমাণিত হইলে অভিযুক্ত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান অনুদানের সম্পূর্ণ অর্থ সরকারের নিকট ফেরত দিতে বাধ্য থাকিবে।
- অনুদানের অর্থ ব্যবহারের বিষয়টি মূল্যায়ন কমিটি, বিভাগের কর্মকর্তা/মাঠ প্রশাসনের কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক মনিটর করা হইবে এবং পরিবীক্ষণে গৃহীত/চলমান কার্যক্রম সন্তোষজনক বলিয়া প্রতীয়মান না হইলে এবং/অথবা অনুদানের অর্থ নির্ধারিত অর্থ বছরের মধ্যে যথাযথভাবে ব্যবহারে অসমর্থ হইলে মঞ্জুরীকৃত সম্পূর্ণ অর্থবা আংশিক অর্থ ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারি কোষাগারে ফেরত দিতে হইবে।
- প্রাপ্ত অনুদান দ্বারা বাস্তবায়িত কার্যক্রম সম্পাদন শেষে মনোনীত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সমাপনী প্রতিবেদন শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটের (www.moedu.gov.bd) মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত ফরম্যাটে আগামী ২৯ ডিসেম্বর, ২০১৬ তারিখের মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। কোনরূপ হার্ডকপি বা ক্রটিপূর্ণ/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া/আবেদনপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
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মোঃ সারওয়ার হোসেন

সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব

ফোনঃ ৯৫৭৭০৯৭

জিডি-২৩৭৩

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