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Nobody has the right to malign Islam

PM warns against militant activities in name of religion

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to remain alert so that militant activities could not be carried out in the name of Islam.

"We have to take steps so that Islam always remains on top," she said while inaugurating the Hajj Programme-2018 at Hajj Camp in the city's Ashkona area.

Hasina said Islam believes in peace as it repeatedly says about the rights of human beings and welfare of people. "But often we see some people in the name of this religion get involved in terrorist activities. This puts our religion into question before the whole world."

The PM said such activities cause problems to Muslims when they travel to various countries. "But Islam is the most peaceful religion.... Islam says the people of all religions will perform their own religious rituals independently. Our Prophet (PBUH) repeatedly said that."

She mentioned that some people created anarchy and problems just to undermine Islam. "Nobody has the right to malign our religion."

Hasina said the government wanted to build a system so that people could understand the real meaning of Islam. To make it happen, the government has taken up a project to

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and pilgrims exchange greetings at Ashkona Hajj Camp after she inaugurated the 2018 hajj programme yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

Arrest order for jailed Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and party's senior leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy in a case filed in connection with their derogatory comments on the Liberation War martyrs.

On receipt of the probe report submitted by Sub-Inspector Zafar Ali of Shahbagh Police Station, Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayeed passed the order directing police to submit by August 7 the report on execution of the arrest warrants.

In the report submitted on July 1, Zafar said the charges brought against the two about the remarks were found to be true.

In January 2016, AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, a pro-Awami League organisation, filed the case against the two for their insulting remarks on the Liberation War martyrs.

Taking cognizance of the allegation, another court directed the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to investigate the matter and submit a report.

On December 21 in 2015, Khaleda, in her first public

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Bomb attack kills 25 at Pak election rally

Thousands mourn the death of local ANP leader in Peshawar blast; 63 injured

AFP, Peshawar

Thousands yesterday flocked to the funeral of a politician killed by a Taliban suicide bomber in northwestern Pakistan's Peshawar, hours after the explosion left 20 dead and 63 injured in the first major attack ahead of July 25 polls.

A senior police official estimated that 30,000 people attended the funeral of the local leader of the Awami National Party (ANP), Haroon Bilour, was among those killed in the attack late Tuesday during an election rally.

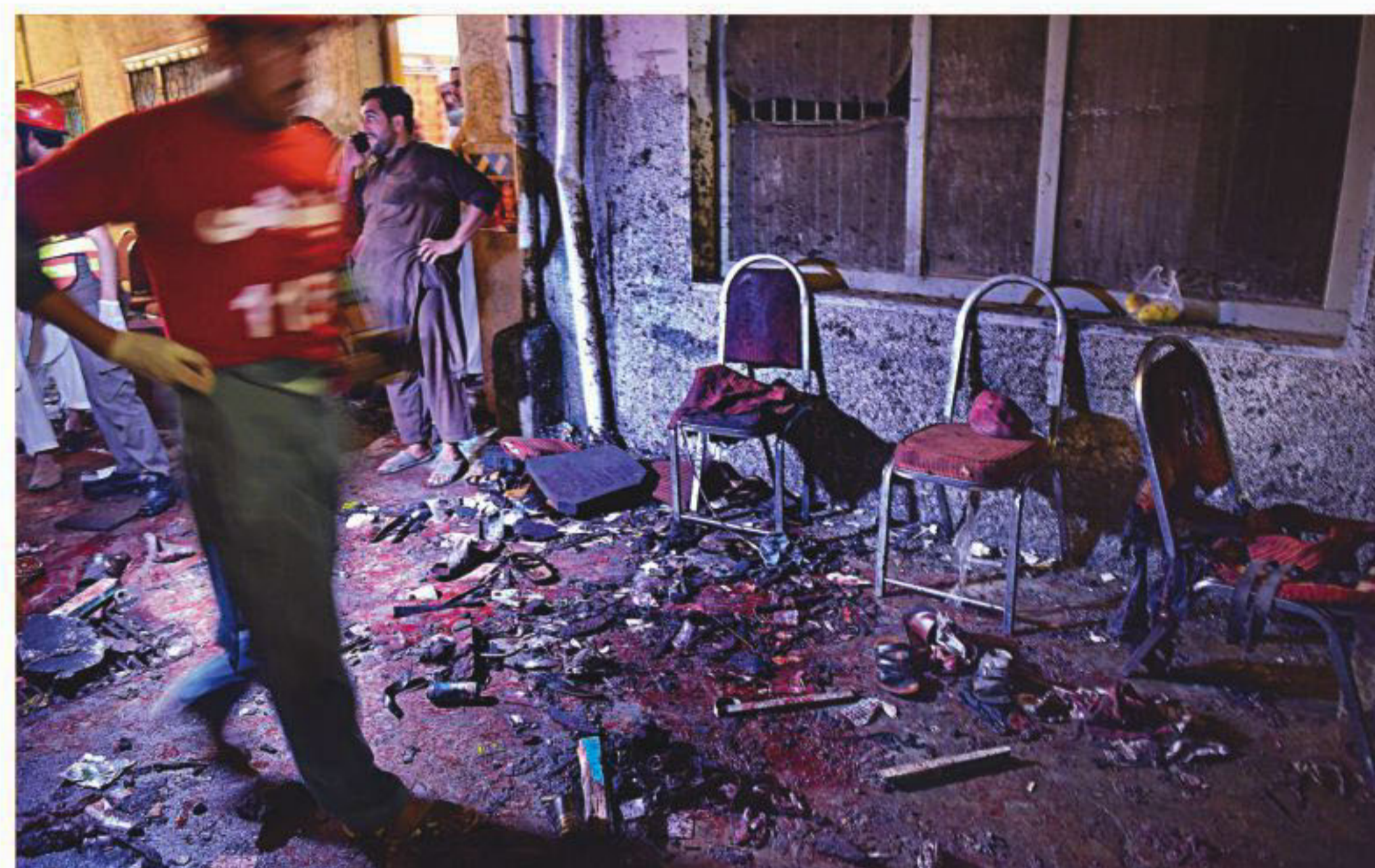
Party workers cried and hugged, while others looked on in shock as funeral prayers were said.

Markets were also closed across the bustling frontier hub near the Afghan border out of respect for those killed in the attack.

The ANP has been targeted by Islamist militants in the past over its vocal opposition to extremist groups like the Taliban.

The bombing came hours after Pakistan's military spokesman said there were security threats ahead of the national elections.

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Pakistani security officials and volunteers search a site after a suicide bombing at an election rally in Peshawar on Tuesday. At least 25 people were killed and 63 others injured, police said. PHOTO: AFP

JAMAAT CHIEF'S RELEASE BNP smells a rat

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam chief Maqbul Ahmad was released on bail on Tuesday night, raising suspicion within the BNP.

Maqbul, who was arrested along with eight other party leaders on October 9 last year, faces 35 cases, including for alleged vandalism, arson and sabotage, but has secured bail in each of them, Jamaat leaders said.

After his arrest, the International Crimes Tribunal had opened a primary inquiry into allegations of war crimes against him. The latest status of the inquiry was not readily available yesterday.

Several leaders of the BNP, a Jamaat ally, told The Daily Star yesterday that they were "surprised at his sudden release."

"This is mysterious," said one leader, who did not want to be named.

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THAI CAVE RESCUE A HERO'S TRAGEDY

AFP, Sydney

An Australian doctor who looked after a young Thai football team during their harrowing cave ordeal emerged from the flooded underground complex to the sad news that his own father had died.

Richard Harris, a world-renowned medic and diver whose presence in the dramatic rescue of the Wild Boars squad was specially requested by experts, was reportedly the last person to leave the water-logged cavern on Tuesday.

"Harry", as he is known in the global caving community, cancelled a planned holiday and jetted in to northern Thailand as part of the international team trying to get the youngsters out of the cave.

Australian media said he put his own life at risk to venture four

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CONGRATULATIONS

Honorable Chairman and Managing Director, Pride of Noakhali Mr. Zayedul Karim Chowdhury [Polash] and Honorable Vice Chairman Begum Nasrin Chowdhury's only daughter Honorable Director of Polash Chowdhury Group **IFRANA BINTE CHOWDHURY MIM** has successfully completed her LLB from Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK. Notable, the convocation took place yesterday 11th July at 10:30am local time at the university campus.

Honorable chairman and vice chairman were present on the ceremony. We are overjoyed on her tremendous success and seeking best wishes from everyone.

Best Wishes From- All Officers & Staffs of PCG

NATO SUMMIT 'Beautiful game' offers respite from divisions

AFP, Brussels

Football came to the rescue of tense Nato leaders at a summit yesterday, providing them with a welcome diversion from the tensions roiling the transatlantic military alliance.

The group is facing one of its most difficult meetings in years due to US President Donald Trump's criticism of the organisation and his targeting of German leader Angela Merkel.

But with the World Cup SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Fossils of early giant dinosaur found

REUTERS, Washington

Scientists have unearthed in northwestern Argentina fossils of the earliest-known giant dinosaur, a four-legged plant-eater with a medium-length neck and long tail that was a forerunner of the largest land animals of all time.

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Expert Advice on Durability of Concrete (Part III)



Dr. Md. Tarek Uddin, P.Eng.
Professor & Head of Department, Civil and Environmental Engineering
Islamic University of Technology (IUT)

Concrete is the second most widely consumed material after water. It gradually became popular since the invention of cement in 1824. It was a dream for the civil engineers to make high performance concrete having high workability, high strength, and long-term durability. This long held dream of civil engineers became true after 1980 with the utilization of mineral and chemical admixtures. These are additional ingredients of concrete in addition to cement, water, and aggregates. By using these materials, it is possible to make concrete of strength of more than 30,000 psi and also it gives a way to design concrete structures for more than 100 years of service life. For example, the concrete foundation of Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower was designed for 100 years of service life.

The strength of concrete is closely related to the durability of concrete, the more the strength the better is the durability. The amount of water in concrete is to be reduced for making high strength concrete. Reduction of water in concrete adversely influences the compaction ability of concrete. Water reducing chemical admixture solves this problem. When water is added to the cement, a huge amount of water is trapped around the chains of cement particles. Water reducing admixture breaks these chains and releases water to improve workability. Now we can make workable concrete even for a very low water to cement ratio, such as 0:30.

More amount of cement is also required for high strength concrete. More cement in concrete creates some problems, such as the tendency of cracking due to heat generated from the reaction of cement and water. This problem is solved by replacing a part of cement with mineral admixtures, such as slag, fly ash, etc. Mineral admixtures reduce heat of hydration, fill micro/nano voids in concrete, and produce new CSH gel (strength giving material) with the reaction of calcium hydroxide of concrete. Utilization of mineral admixtures in cement reduces the amount of cement production and therefore reduces CO₂ emission from the cement industries. It can be noted that out of 40 trillion tons of annual global CO₂ emission, 4 trillion tons generate from cement industries. As mineral admixtures are the by-product of different industries, therefore, disposal of these materials is also an environmental concern. Eventually, it can be solved by incorporation of the by-product in cement. Today's smart concrete having high workability, high strength, and long-term durability becomes possible with the benefits of mineral and chemical admixtures. Long-term durability of concrete structures will eventually help for sustainability of our construction materials.

(Note - The fourth part of this article will cover durability performance of slag cement in seawater that will be published on 19th July, 2018.)

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*Durability based design is to be followed and the structures are to be constructed accordingly.