

Pro-Hefajat speaker lands in jail

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and destabilise the society by making irresponsible statements and spreading it through social media.

Rab handed Rafiqul over to the police yesterday morning.

On April 3, Rafiqul appeared on Facebook and spoke in support of Hefajat-e-Islami leader Mamunul Haque, following an incident at a resort in Narayanganj's Sonargaon.

Rafiqul is also the director of Saoatul Hera Madrasa at Paschim Bilashpur in Netrakona district and assistant vice president of Jubo Jamiat, a wing of Jamiat-e-Ulama-Islam, of Netrakona.

Earlier on March 25, police detained Rafiqul from the capital's Motijheel area during a demonstration, protesting the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

He was later released.

Another case was filed against Rafiqul under the DSA with Motijheel Police Station yesterday, confirmed Yasin Arafat Khan, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Introducing him as a "conscious" citizen, a BCL leader Syed Adnan Shantu filed the case under sections 27, 28, 29, 31, and 35, alleging that Rafiqul has given provocative and anti-state speech against the prime minister, the president, and also against the administration and system of the country, through Youtube.

Later Rafiqul's speech was shared by some Facebook profiles and pages. Syed Adnan mentioned that those "likes and comments" under the shared posts are also "anti-government and anti-state."

He attached eight pages of screenshots with the case statement.

On Wednesday night, there was a rumour on social media that Hefajat-e-Islam Joint Secretary General Mamunul Haque could be arrested any time as he, along with 700 named and unnamed Hefajat men, were sued over vandalising a resort and attacking police in Narayanganj's Sonargaon on April 3.

Meanwhile, Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dharmapasha Police Station, was withdrawn and attached to police lines on Wednesday night, said Sujun Chandra Sarkar, assistant superintendent of Sunamganj police (Dharmapasha circle).

The OC was accused of harassing a Dhaka University BCL leader in Sunamganj, he added.

The BCL leader, Afzal Khan, international affairs deputy-secretary of DU unit, filed a case with Dharmapasha Police Station, accusing 29 named and 20-25 unnamed persons, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

On March 29, Afzal gave a post on his Facebook, criticising Hefajat-e-Islam for their recent vandalism all over the country.

After he posted on Facebook, Al Mujahid, son of local AL leader Abul Hashem Alam, gathered a mob and harassed Afzal at Jayasree Bazar.

Afzal was later confined into the union AL office in presence of the AL leaders.

Police reached there after two hours and handcuffed the BCL leader. They forced him to apologise to the crowd gathered there.

Following the incident, police also arrested AL Jayasree Union unit's General Secretary Abul Hashem Alam in connection with the harassment.

Alam was suspended from AL in an emergency meeting called by the upazila Awami League unit on Wednesday.

Tikka Khan sworn in as governor

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Pakistan's creditors said their agencies did not want to open themselves up to the charge of financing the Pakistani central government's civil war against East Pakistan. In January, 1971, well before the current crisis, Pakistani government reserves were down to \$184 million, compared to \$342 million just a year before.

The monthly earnings from exports of West Pakistan, seat of the central government, were said to be only \$28 million, while the western region's imports had been running \$170 million monthly.

The exports of the now embattled eastern region had traditionally made up much of the difference. This created a major dilemma for the World Bank and an international consortium of Pakistan's creditors, the largest of which is the United States. Pakistan's total international debt was about \$4 billion, and the country was rapidly running out of reserves to pay the interest on those debts.

But officials representing

UN Security Council asserted that despite a Pakistani government report on February 13, Pakistan had never in fact "deplored" the hijacking, had delayed the return of the passengers to Indian territory by 50 hours and had made no effort to disarm and arrest the hijackers before they burned the aircraft.

The letter said that India, in subsequently barring flights by Pakistani aircraft over Indian territory, had "acted in the interest of maintaining the minimum necessary standards or safety and security of international civil aviation against hijacking".

It may be mentioned here that the flight ban seriously thwarted Pakistan's supply line as Pakistan planes had to stop in Sri Lanka to refuel while on way to East Pakistan.

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India protested today against a denial by Pakistan that her government had failed to take action in the hijacking of an Indian airliner on February 1, 1971. A letter from Ambassador Samar Sen of India to the president of the

7th-grader raped

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her.

Hearing the victim scream, locals rushed to the spot and rescued the girl. The accused, however, managed to flee the scene.

Kamruzzaman Mia, officer-in-charge of Taltoli Police Station, said they arrested the accused on information and sent the victim to Barguna General Hospital for medical tests.

Further legal actions will be taken against the accused, the OC added.

It's more vital

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dividend that we as a group are enjoying now."

The PM said the private sectors of the D-8 countries will have more productive, mutually beneficial interactions and cooperations.

During the summit several initiatives of the D-8, covering wide ranging issues like technology, agriculture, business, health and education, were mentioned, she said.

"I'm confident that with our support and encouragement, the D-8 will flourish further in the coming days, and we'll be able to achieve even more," Hasina added.

President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, President of Iran Hassan Rouhani, Prime Minister of Malaysia Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, Prime Minister of Egypt Mostafa Madbouly and Foreign Minister of Nigeria Geoffrey Idefofo Kwusike Onyeama on behalf of its President Muhammadu Buhari addressed the summit.

At the summit, Dhaka Declaration 2021 and D-8 Decennial Roadmap for 2020-2030 were adopted.

Hasina attended the first D-8 summit held in 1997 in Istanbul and chaired the 2nd D-8 summit hosted by Dhaka in 1999.

US restores

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security coordination and stability," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

The funding is in addition to \$15 million earlier announced by the United States in Covid assistance to the Palestinians amid criticism that Israel, a leader in vaccinating its own people, has not taken similar initiatives in territories under its occupation.

Israel argues that vaccination is the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, or UNRWA, once counted on the United States as its top donor but has been facing a shortfall since Trump withdrew funds from 2018 on the argument that the refugees, some in camps for generations, should be resettled.

UNRWA praised Biden for resuming US financial support, saying it came at a "critical moment" amid the Covid pandemic.

"UNRWA could not be more pleased that once again we will partner with the United States to provide critical assistance to some of the most vulnerable refugees across the Middle East," the agency's commissioner general, Philippe Lazzarini, said in a statement yesterday.

The Biden administration has been restoring relations and support for the Palestinians although stopping short of unveiling any new peace initiative to resolve the historic conflict.

Mexican tricksters

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authorities," Mexico City official Cristina Cruz was quoted by the UNOIV news site as saying.

The imposters face charges of identity theft, she said.

The country of 126 million, whose official Covid-19 death toll of 205,000 is the world's third highest, has doled out nearly 10 million vaccine doses to medical workers and the elderly.

Mexico's doctors have paid a heavy price in the crisis. At least 3,679 medical staff have died in the pandemic, according to the latest official data.

The toll is the highest worldwide for health workers, according to Amnesty International. More than 877,500 healthcare workers had received at least one vaccine dose by April 7, according to government data, with no breakdown between public or private.

Mexico has so far acquired 3.5 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine developed with Oxford University researchers.

The government has warned that a new spike in infections could follow the recent Easter holidays.

UN urges 'maximum restraint' after blast hits Iran ship

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations on Wednesday called for "maximum restraint" in the Middle East after an explosion on an Iranian ship in the Red Sea that reports suggested may have been carried out by Israel.

Though circumstances of the event remain unclear, the countries involved must "exercise maximum restraint and refrain from taking any escalatory actions," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

3 Swechchasebak League men

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In the edited version of the speech, a copy of which is with The Daily Star, Joardar was heard warning journalists about yellow journalism.

The leaders arrested are Imran Ahmed, 32, joint convener of Chuadanga Sadar upazila unit; Tourat Hossain, 28, president of Ward-5; and Dishan Ahmed, 24, organising secretary of Ward-3 unit of Sadar upazila.

The OC said the shortened version of the speech was uploaded not by the three arrestees but by another person named Rakibul Alam Nippon, who is a Chuadanga Bangladesh Chhatra League activist.

On August 16, 2020, Nippon had uploaded the video with a caption accusing Joardar of extremism, organised crime and intimidating the media, the OC said.

The video was then shared by the three accused in the case and 37 others, he added.

According to the case statement, the accused posted the video on Facebook in order to create unrest and chaos in the society and to tarnish the social status, dignity and reputation of the lawmaker.

The trio were arrested from Hasan Shahid Chatter in the town around 8:30pm on Wednesday, informed police.

On the day the Facebook post was made, Hossain filed the DSA case.

The OC said that after conducting a probe, the investigation officer (IO) of the case Bhabatosh Ghosh submitted the charge sheet to Chuadanga Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on September 12.

Following a hearing on the charge sheet, the court issued warrants against the accused on January 20, 2021. Police

said the arrestees were produced before the court yesterday and were then sent to jail.

According to several sources of Chuadanga AL, the DSA case was a result of factional frictions between the district party.

One of the two factions is led by the parliamentarian Joardar, while the other by district Awami League General Secretary Azadul Islam Azad and Swechchasebak League district convener Obaidur Rahman Choudhury Zipu, who was the former mayor of Chuadanga municipality.

According to sources within the party, all the accused are loyalists of Obaidur Rahman Choudhury Zipu.

When contacted, Zipu said that this case was meant to harass party leaders and activists. This correspondent repeatedly tried to contact Solaiman Joardar but to no avail.

In another incident, Lalmonirhat Detective Branch of Police arrested the principal of a local madrasa under the DSA.

Zahidul Islam, 33, the principal of Dawatul Quran Mahila Madrasa (Nurani Madrasa) from Bhelabari, had allegedly shared a distorted photo of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Facebook.

According to police, the arrestee had opened a Facebook account named "Zahid Chhatra" to promote extremist ideology and militancy. From that account, he shared a distorted photo of the PM caricaturing her as an animal. The police themselves filed the case on April 8 with Aditmoni Police Station.

Zahidul was arrested from his house on Thursday morning. Lalmonirhat Superintendent of Police Abida Sultana confirmed the incident to The Daily Star.

Dhaka to seek strong US role

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Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and other officials concerned before calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He will hand over an invitation to the PM to attend the "Leaders' Summit on Climate" to be held on April 22-23. US President Joe Biden has invited 40 world leaders to the summit to be hosted by him.

Kerry will leave Dhaka for Washington in the evening.

Before coming to Dhaka, he also visited the UAE, a major producer of renewable energy, and India, a major greenhouse gas emitter, last week.

He called on India to join hands with the US to confront the climate crisis through a clean energy transition and vowed to swiftly make up for America's "lost years" in the fight to protect the environment.

Climate analysts think the summit will be a key milestone on the road to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) this November in Glasgow.

Biden's return to the Paris Climate Agreement days after assuming office in January, after his predecessor Donald Trump's withdrawal, has brought new hope among scientists to fight climate change.

Late January this year, Kerry phoned Foreign Minister Momen and talked for nearly half an hour. Momen then expressed high hopes of strong collaboration between the two countries on climate issues.

During his visit to Washington DC in late February, the minister held talks with Kerry.

Bangladesh, president of Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), a grouping of 48 countries, is one of most vulnerable countries to climate change. It hosts the regional office of the Global Centre on Adaptation.

As the president of the CVF, Bangladesh has been raising its voice for energy transition, net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, climate justice and climate-related adaptation and mitigation on different global platforms, say officials.

Climate analysts say the importance of Bangladesh has increased to a much extent because of its various initiatives on climate adaptation as well as for its leadership at the CVF.

Speaking to The Daily Star, a diplomatic source said, "John Kerry's visit to Dhaka to invite Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina means the US is giving importance to the role of Bangladesh."

In fact, he said, the US wants Bangladesh to play a leadership role in global negotiations.

"The issues of climate change will be eventually incorporated in all development and productive activities. How to transform that is going to be a very important issue. There will be a lot of issues of technology transfer and so on," the diplomatic source said.

How the two countries can work in multilateral or bilateral platforms may also be discussed during his visit, he added.

Dr Sharif A Mukul, research assistant professor at the Department of Earth and Environment of

Florida International University, said a momentum has been created following the US's return to Paris deal and Biden's Global Leaders' Summit ahead of the COP26.

The developed countries made commitments of mobilise \$100 billion annually for mitigation and adaptation programme. Also, the Paris Climate Agreement aims to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, while pursuing the means to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees.

"One of the aspects for Bangladesh is to have more funding from the Green Climate Fund," Sharif said.

Bangladesh has so far secured \$351 million from the Green Climate Fund.

Sometimes countries not so vulnerable to climate change secure more fund due to their political influence, the environmental expert said, adding that the most vulnerable countries like Bangladesh and the Maldives should get more fund.

A foreign ministry official said river erosion has long been a major problem that rendered millions of people homeless in Bangladesh. "We will raise the issue and seek US support to tackle the challenge."

On mitigation aspect, reducing high dependence on fossil fuel will be an important issue.

"We will also seek US support for increasing the share of renewable energy -- call it finance or technology," the official said.

11 more killed in Myanmar

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Min Hteik, a resident of the region and a youth activist. "They have handmade firearms. And now they came out with their weapons in order to protect the locals, while the people were under attack by the junta."

A spokesman for the junta could not be reached for comment.

"People will try to defend their own lives and their rights," said a former government minister who is part of the CRPH, a group of lawmakers representing the ousted civilian government.

The United States yesterday imposed fresh sanctions on a state-owned gems enterprise in Myanmar, according to the Treasury Department website.

The Biden administration has already slapped sanctions on generals involved in the coup and some of their family members, as well as two conglomerates controlled by the military.

Myanma Gems Enterprise, part of the country's mining ministry, was placed on the Treasury's Special Designated Nationals list, the statement said.

'LOCKED OUT OF EMBASSY' Overseas, tussles for control of Myanmar's diplomatic missions emerged again on Wednesday.

Myanmar's ambassador to

London Kyaw Zwar Minn said he was locked out of the embassy, with sources saying his deputy had shut him out and taken charge on behalf of the military.

Kyaw Zwar Minn has broken ranks with the ruling junta in recent weeks, calling for the release of detained civilian leader Suu Kyi.

"It's a kind of coup, in the middle of London... you can see that they occupy my building," he told Reuters.

British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab tweeted his support for the ambassador, who spent the night in his car outside the embassy.

"We condemn the bullying actions of the Myanmar military regime in London yesterday, and I pay tribute to Kyaw Zwar Minn for his courage," Raab wrote.

UK sources said the Myanmar authorities had given official notice of Kyaw Zwar Minn's termination as ambassador, and in line with diplomatic policy the government had no choice but to accept it.

Kyaw Zwar Minn called for the international community to help his country after the UK confirmed it could no longer recognise him, reports AFP.

"Please assist our country and help our country as without

international assistance we will not be able to get out of this mess," Kyaw Zwar Minn told reporters outside the embassy.

The junta yesterday arrested Paing Takhon, a model and actor who had spoken out against the coup, his sister told Reuters. In Yangon, the country's biggest city, activists placed shoes filled with flowers to commemorate dead protesters.

AAPP has said 2,847 people were currently being held in detention.

In addition, arrest warrants have been issued for hundreds of people, with the junta this week going after scores of influencers, entertainers, artists and musicians.

Paing Takhon, 24, well-known in Myanmar and Thailand, was one of the latest celebrities to be detained. He had condemned the military takeover and pledged support for Suu Kyi.

His sister, Thi Thi Lwin, told Reuters that the military detained her brother at 4:30 am at their parents' home in Yangon, where he had been staying for several days while unwell, suffering from malaria and a heart condition.

The security forces came with eight military trucks and about 50 soldiers and it was unclear where he had been taken, she said.

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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works.

Ser.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender publication date	Last selling, closing & opening date
1.	565583	Installation and Commissioning of Deep Tube-Well (1000 Ft)	08.04.2021	27.04.2021
2.	566384	Renovation for 50 Tons Cold Storage (Complete)	08.04.2021	27.04.2021
3.	566585	Supply of Brand New Long Boom Excavator	08.04.2021	27.04.2021
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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) Contact No. BFDC, Ctg Fish Harbour (01716169062 and 01719319043).

GD-718 General Manager

Cyclone that ravaged Indonesia, East

Timor set to hit Australia

AFP, Sydney

Australian authorities yesterday urged holidaymakers to evacuate a stretch of the country's western coastline in the path of a cyclone that has devastated parts of Indonesia and East Timor.

Tropical Cyclone Seroja is expected to hit Western Australia late Sunday or early Monday after tracking south.

It is forecast to bring "destructive winds with gusts of 150 kilometres per hour (93 miles per hour) and intense rainfall that could cause flash flooding" on parts of the

coast, the Bureau of Meteorology said.

Emergency services warned holidaymakers -- many camping or travelling in caravans -- to leave ahead of forecast weekend storms that would be quickly followed by the cyclone.

"If you remain in the area in a tent or caravan, you are at risk," said assistant commissioner Paul Ryan, adding that these structures were "highly dangerous" in wild weather.

Local residents were also urged to prepare emergency kits and

ensure their homes were ready for the expected impact.

The cyclone is forecast to make landfall in a relatively isolated part of Western Australia -- a sprawling, sparsely populated state -- as a category 2 or 3 system.

Almost 180 people were killed in Indonesia and neighbouring East Timor earlier this week after the cyclone proved one of the most destructive storms to hit the region in years.

Dozens more are still missing and thousands have been left homeless.