

Pro-Hefajat speaker lands in jail

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Meanwhile, Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dharmapasha Police Station, was withdrawn and attached to police lines on Wednesday night, said Sujon Chandra Sarkar, assistant superintendent of Sunamganj police (Dharmapasha circle).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

Focus given on vaccines, economy

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The progress in attaining its objectives has not been significant in more than two decades, but Foreign Minister Momen said, now with the emergence of digital technologies, all the countries coming under the "developing" country category seek to boost trade and industrialisation. Trade can be done through digital marketplace, he added.

"The D-8 summit called upon member states to consider conducting a feasibility study for establishing a Pandemic Diseases Fund to fight diseases like Covid-19 and directed health ministries, public and private institutions to join hands to make the best use of the laboratories and research centres to contribute significantly to accelerate the global economic recovery," according to the 38-point Dhaka Declaration adopted by the D-8 leaders.

They expressed commitment to combined efforts in achieving effective adaptation to climate change through building climate resilience.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, and Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Jidefor took part in the summit.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan handed over chairmanship of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation to Hasina for the next two years. Foreign Minister Momen also became chairman of D-8 Council of Foreign Ministers.

The theme of the 10th D-8 Summit "Partnership for a Transformative World: Harnessing the Power of Youth and Technology", emphasised on the power of youths and technology.

Prime Minister Hasina said harnessing the power of youths could be done through skill development, utilising the full potential of ICT, creating necessary legal, institutional and infrastructural framework; and improving connectivity to facilitate trade and investment among the D-8 member states.

"The D-8, which was established 24 years ago, is now poised to deliver its goal of economic development through creating synergies," she said.

"The youth in our countries can be encouraged to come together through the business initiatives at private and even government to private level. The D-8 Business Forum together with the 1st D-8 Youth Summit has created this rare opportunity," she added.

Momen said the D-8 countries have stressed on cooperation on trade and tourism by signing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). Six of the eight countries have already ratified PTA.

The trade among the D-8 countries is about \$100 billion, which is only 6 percent of the group's total trade, but the summit spoke of increasing the intra-trade among the countries to 10 percent by 2030.

"There are issues of trade facilitation and removing non-tariff trade barriers. The D-8 leaders emphasised on removing barriers and boosting trade," said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

"All the countries also spoke of streamlining legal and institutional issues for increasing trade," he said.

The summit encouraged the member states to explore the potentialities of a D-8 Clearing House for smooth financial transactions; evaluate the possibility of establishing D-8 Special Economic Zones; explore the possibilities of developing transport connectivity to facilitate intra-D8 trade and operationalising visa and customs agreements.

Momen said Bangladesh, as chair of the D-8 for the next two years, will do everything necessary to boost trade and investment among the member states.

7th-grader raped

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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.

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.

Security beefed

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Haider Ali Khan, deputy inspector general at Police Headquarters, yesterday said police always remain alert and take actions against those involved in anti-state activities, violence and destruction of government property.

Asked about the beefed up security, he told The Daily Star that analysing security threats was police's routine work and they were doing their job and taking actions accordingly.

According to sources, security posts were set up with sandbags at police stations and outposts of SMP.

"The number of police members at the police stations and outposts of Sylhet Metropolitan Police has also been increased. Up to 50 additional police personnel joined each of the police stations," said a high official of SMP.

Considering the risk, security posts have also been seen set up on the roofs and in the open space in front of some police stations, said the official, requesting anonymity.

SMP Commissioner Nisarul Arif told this newspaper yesterday that they beefed up security measures so that any attack like the recent ones carried out on police stations did not recur in Sylhet.

Lutfur Rahman, additional superintendent of police in Sylhet, said they have taken steps to set up security posts in all 12 police stations in the district.

"Besides, we are also building security posts at some important places of the district and stepping up patrol to avoid any untoward incidents," he added.

In Brahmanbaria, along with installing security posts at different places, the number of policemen has also been increased at different police stations after analysing security threats and importance of the stations, said sources.

Anwar Hossain, deputy inspector general of Chattogram police, yesterday said: "We have beefed up security at all police stations and outposts of the range following recent violence by Hefajat-e-Islam. We have made the decision to ensure security of people's life and property."

Speaking to this newspaper, two OCs of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the Police Headquarters instructed them to increase monitoring and beef up security following the recent incidents of violence. Steps were taken in line with the instructions, they added.

On Wednesday, Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed held a virtual meeting with filed-level high officials. In the meeting, he directed the officials to take necessary measures to avert any untoward incidents, said meeting sources.

Hefajat staged a protest at Baitul Mukarram on March 26 over Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh. They clashed with police and ruling party men during the demonstration.

Soon after the news spread, students of Hathazari madrasa in Chattogram brought out a protest procession. Four students were killed in violence there. Demonstrations took place in Brahmanbaria in the afternoon that day and another man was killed in a clash with law enforcers.

Hefajat later called for protests next day and a hartal on March 28 over the attacks and killings.

Its leaders and activists attacked government and private installations, police stations and outposts and blocked roads in different parts of the country during the strike. At least 13 people were killed in violence over the three days.

However, Hefajat in a briefing later claimed that 17 people were killed. [Our Sylhet correspondent contributed to this report.]

3 Swechchasebak League men

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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 Bhelbari, 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 Aditmari Police Station.

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

Tikka Khan sworn in as governor

FROM PAGE 12

Life was becoming normal in Chittagong and in Dhaka where arms were reportedly being returned to civilians who had surrendered them. [New York Times, April 10, 1971]

PAKISTAN SEEKS US AID TO AVERT BANKRUPTCY

Pakistan had dispatched a senior finance ministry official to Washington to seek emergency assistance from the international financial community to ward off the country's impending bankruptcy, according to the US and diplomatic sources.

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

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.

INDIA PROTESTS IN UN

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

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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Dhaka to seek strong US role

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Kerry, who is scheduled to arrive around 11:00am, will hold a meeting with 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 much because of its various initiatives on climate adaptation as well as for its leadership at the CVE.

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 forums 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.

The developed countries made commitments to mobilise \$100 billion annually for mitigation and adaptation programmes. 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, which has rendered millions of people homeless, has long been a major problem for 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.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

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Chattogram Fish Harbour

Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation

Ref. No. 33.03.1561.008.07.001.19.635 Date: 08/04/2021

e-Tender Notice

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
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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
4.	566847	Supply and Installation of Open Type Water Cooled Atmospheric Condenser (capacity: 150 TR, Heat Transfer capacity: 18,00,000 BTU/Hr, 25kg/square cm pressure test)	08.04.2021	27.04.2021
5.	566888	Supply and Installation Portable Fire Pump with Diesel Engine and related all Accessories.	08.04.2021	27.04.2021

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches by 12.00 hours on 27.04.2021.

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**

11 more killed in Myanmar

FROM PAGE 12

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.

Myanmar 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.