

'A conspiracy to destroy communal harmony'

Rights group, political parties condemn attack on temples; demand exemplary punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several social organisations and political parties yesterday condemned the attack on and vandalism of Hindu temples and idols across the country, following reports of "demeaning the Holy Quran" in Cumilla.

Their observation was that the incident was orchestrated and part of an intricate conspiracy.

The organisations issued different statements, where they said the attack was carried out intentionally to destroy communal harmony. All of them urged the government to immediately identify the perpetrators and ensure exemplary punishment for them.

Three people were killed and many injured on Wednesday, after a mob and police clashed in Chandpur's Haziganj upazila, while violence erupted in several districts on this issue. There were clashes in Cumilla, Chattogram, Kurigram and Moulvibazar, where Hindu idols and temples were vandalised amid Durga Puja festivities.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim and General Secretary Mohammad Shah

Alam wrote in a statement that the attack happened because justice was not ensured for previous such incidents.

"The story of demeaning the Holy Quran is an intricate conspiracy to destroy communal harmony. We have seen such attacks, which were triggered by rumors, previously," the statement wrote.

Ain O Salish Kendra [ASK] expressed deep concern in this regard. They said, religious leaders should take responsible roles after such incidents, but they are not doing so. Their [leaders] speeches sometimes encourage communal violence.

"Those who are involved in such incidents, are challenging religious solidarity, the constitution, human rights and the government's commitment," wrote the statement, signed by ASK Executive Director Golam Monowar Kamal.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council demanded immediate arrest of the attackers and trying them under the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also termed the incident a "conspiracy" and demanded a speedy and neutral investigation.

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Kamalapur is one of the most important areas in the capital. But illegal parking of vehicles on various spots have made a mess out of its traffic situation. Near Kamalapur Railway Hospital, BRTC buses take up more than half of the street on both sides, while beside the container terminal, the entirety of the footpath and even parts of the road is taken up by illegally parked container vehicles. These photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Man falls in drain, comes out of connecting canal alive



PHOTO: STAR

Manik was sitting on this crossing on Kalshi canal before falling into the water, getting sucked into a drain, and popping out of a pipe into another canal at New Road.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man who went missing after falling into a sewerage drain in Dhaka's Pallabi area yesterday was found alive in a canal two kilometres away.

Manik Miah (45), a tea-shop owner, is currently admitted to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital after receiving primary treatment from Islami Bank Hospital in Mipur, said Shakhawat Noman, an on-duty doctor of the hospital.

Locals said he was sitting on a bypass over the Kalshi canal before falling into the water.

Around 9am, eyewitness Md Liton, manager of a nearby restaurant, heard a sound from the canal and found the man swimming in its pitch-black water.

"We asked him to get out of the water and tried to help, but he did not listen and kept swimming... at one stage, he drowned in the swirling water and vanished," he said.

Along with the sewerage water, he had passed on to the canal near Kalshi New Road.

Witnesses said they saw him dropping out into the canal through a pipe. He later swam to the shore around 9:35am.

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Continue pressure on Myanmar

Japanese envoy tells int'l community on Rohingya repatriation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international community should continue its pressure on Myanmar for the repatriation of Rohingyas to their motherland, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki said yesterday.

He said it is very difficult to predict the direction in which the situation is headed. "Repatriation is very important. Japan will continue to raise this issue with Myanmar. The international community needs to put pressure on Myanmar," he said while addressing the "DCAB Talk" held at Jatiya Press Club.

The ambassador said a congenial environment is needed in Rakhine for the repatriation.

Meanwhile, he said Japan will send more vaccines to Bangladesh through Covax in November. Japan has already sent 30 lakh doses of Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh in July and August.

The ambassador also lauded Bangladesh's achievement in Covid-19 management, terming it a great achievement.

On the issue of extremism, he said Japan will send various items to Bangladesh to help fight the menace.

The ambassador said Japan was cooperating with Bangladesh in various ways to curb extremism after the Holy Artisan Bakery attack. As part of this, the materials will be sent later this year or early next year. He said Japan is sending patrol ships as gifts to the Coast Guard in November.

Ambassador Ito Naoki said Bangladesh is becoming the new frontier of investment in Asia as companies are now looking for investment destinations beyond China.

Saying that Bangladesh is destined to shine and transform, the ambassador said Bangladesh will need to work hard for it. "Opportunities and possibilities are here. We just need the environment," he added.

The Japanese envoy also said the Arahazar special economic zone is ready and expecting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from companies by the end of next year.

Man, mother-in-law held with meth, yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narcotics officials yesterday arrested a man and his mother-in-law on charges of trading crystal meth in the capital.

A team of Department of Narcotics Control (Dhaka Metro-North) conducted a drive in Mohammadpur and West Dhanmondi area and arrested Robin (29) and his mother-in-law Arafa Akhter (37) with 270 grammes of crystal meth and 6,500 pieces of yaba, said Mehedi Hasan, assistant director at DNC, during a press briefing at its Tejgaon office yesterday.

The DNC official said the arrestees have been involved in the narcotics trade for two years. Robin used to be a cloth trader and had a shop at Alpona

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Parents, son found dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered bodies of a couple and their son from a house in Jorarganj union, under Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila early yesterday.

The deceased are Mostafa Saudagar (70), his wife Josna Akter (50), and their son Ahmed Hossain (25).

Quoting locals, Inspector (Investigation) of Jorarganj Police Station, Helal Uddin, said neighbours spotted the bodies on the floor of their house while returning from Fajr prayers and informed police. The victims' throats were slit.

Police later recovered the bodies at around 5am, he said. "During that time, the couple's elder son Saddam and his wife were found in the house unharmed, which raised suspicion to the investigators," he said. "They told neighbours that robbers stormed their house and hacked the victims to death. But during investigation, police found nothing was missing from the house. Victim Josna even had the gold chain that she was wearing at the time," he said.

The couple had three sons. The third son did not live with the family, said police. Law enforcers, meanwhile, detained Saddam for interrogation. The inspector also said as per primary findings, Saddam had a feud with his parents over property.

"We are investigating the incident," he added. The bodies were being examined and circumstantial evidence was being collected by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), said the inspector.

Tough times for port city residents

With price of daily essentials spiraling, many middle-income families also struggling to get by

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With prices of daily essentials rapidly increasing, even people from the middle-income group in the port city can now be seen standing in front of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) trucks to buy daily essentials at cheaper rates.

These people are not usually seen in the long lines the trucks create. They would not have to stand in the middle of the road under the scorching sun just to get groceries. But times are such that they too are struggling alongside residents from low and lower-middle income groups.

TCB started its latest session of open market sale (OMS) operation at 23 points of Chattogram on October 6, and it will continue till October 28, said TCB officials.

In the city, OMS operation is ongoing at 13 points, and in upazilas, TCB is providing the service at 10 points, they said.

TCB is selling lentils, sugar, edible oil and onions for much cheaper -- at almost half the market price -- and that is why people swarm the trucks as soon as possible.

On Jamal Khan Road, around a hundred people were seen standing in the queue before a truck around 12:30pm yesterday.

Tushar Kanti Hawlader, a retired schoolteacher, was one of them. He told The Daily Star that right now, he cannot maintain her family with his retirement pension, due to the unusual price hike of daily essentials.

"I never thought I'd have to stand in front of a TCB truck, but now, I don't have an option," he said.

Nabila Akter, a resident at Jamal Khan area, was also seen standing in line. She said her husband is a private-job holder, and the price hike forced her to get groceries from the truck.

"It's very difficult to maintain a family with my husband's little

income, and so, we have to buy stuff through OMS," she said.

Amid all this, many also claimed that they have to stand in line for hours, as the trucks, which are scheduled to be at each point around 10am, don't arrive on time, they alleged.

Right now, a litre of edible oil in regular markets goes for around Tk 150, but TCB sells it for Tk 100. A kilogramme of sugar, which has a market price of Tk 80, is sold for Tk 55. Similarly, per kilo of onions goes for Tk 30, while it's around Tk 70 in the markets, and a kilo of lentils can be bought for Tk 55, while that rate is Tk 90 to 120 at other places.

However, a person is not allowed to buy more than two-kg of sugar, two-kg of lentils, two-kg of edible oil and four-kg of onion. Despite this rule, people were demanding to buy more, but the salespersons refused to comply.

Idris Ali, a salesperson for the

truck, said TCB officials set the limit, so more people who need the food can get it. "If a person buys 10 kg of each item, then what would remain for the others, who have been standing in line for such a long time?"

Contacted, Jamal Uddin Ahmed, TCB regional head at Chattogram, said an OMS truck is stocked with 700 kg of onions, 400 kg of edible oil, 300 kg of lentils, and 300kg of sugar.

"On average, around 200 people can buy daily essentials from any one point," he said.

Asked about increasing the number of sales points, he said they would increase it in the next session.

He, however, could not mention when the next session would begin.

Meanwhile, people demanded that TCB continue its OMS operation without any disruption, and double the number of sales points.



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

The queues in front of TCB trucks are getting longer by the day, amid soaring prices of daily essentials. Port city residents occupy many of the roads from the morning and wait for hours in the swelter just to get their groceries for cheap. The photos were taken yesterday.

MINI BYTES



1Password now allows you to share passwords with a link

NAVEED HUSSAIN

1Password now allows you to share passwords via a link. With Psst! (a new secure password sharing tool), a new link sharing feature that the company is releasing today, password manager 1Password is making it easier to share passwords with anyone.

Instead of using 1Password's built-in sharing options, which require an account, or simply copying-pasting log-in information, Psst! makes password sharing feel more like sharing a Google Doc.

Psst! lets you share credentials with anyone, even if they don't have a 1Password account, by providing a link containing the information that anyone can view. You can set the duration of the connection, which can range from an hour to 30 days before it expires.

You can also choose whether to share the credentials with anybody who has access to the link or exclusively with certain people. Depending on the share settings, the experience of someone who receives a link can be different.

If you make what you're sharing publicly viewable, the link will simply open up a copy of the credentials as they were at the time they were shared. If the information you've shared is

only intended for a small group of people, they'll need to confirm their email address and then enter a one-time verification code to gain access.

It's important to note that the link only gives you access to a copy of the information you shared when you made it. If you later change the password in your vault, old links will no longer display the new password.

According to a study conducted by 1Password in the US, the majority of employees reuse corporate credentials. Insecure channels such as emails, chat apps, spreadsheets, documents, and texts were used by 36% of those surveyed to share log-ins with coworkers and clients.

According to a separate survey conducted by the company, most families share passwords among family members and also use insecure methods such as writing them down and texting them to each other.

The increased safety this method keeps the rest of your vault's information secure provides a way to track who accessed the login, and access to the login expires whenever you decide it should. Psst! is partially reliant on the security of the email receiving those verification codes, but it keeps the rest of your vault's information secure, provides a way to track who accessed the login, and access to the login expires whenever you decide it.