

'Attacks a conspiracy against country'

Speakers tell Shahbagh rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attack and vandalism on Hindu idols and temples during Durga Puja festivities were part of a conspiracy against the country, speakers said at a protest rally yesterday.

They said the incidents -- following reports of "demeaning the Holy Quran" in Cumilla -- are the result of not ensuring justice for similar incidents in the past. They later demanded a minority protection act and minorities commission in this regard.

They also said the government should take responsibility for the attacks, as it failed to take

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Islami Andolan stages demo at Baitul Mukarram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka city chapters of Islami Andolan Bangladesh yesterday staged a rally in front of the capital's Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, protesting the incident of "demeaning the Holy Quran" in Cumilla and hike in prices of daily essentials.

Addressing the rally, Syed Modasser Billah Al Madani, presidium member of the organisation's central committee, said they want a peaceful Bangladesh without harmful incidents involving people belonging to the Muslim and Hindu communities.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



(From left) Protesting attacks on mandaps during Durga Puja festivities in different parts of the country, Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad brought out a procession in the port city's Anderkilla area yesterday. At the capital's Shahbagh, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad held a rally demanding punishment for the attackers. Meanwhile, Dhaka city chapter of Islami Andolan demonstrated in front of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque protesting, according to them, the incident of "demeaning the Holy Quran" in Cumilla.



PHOTO: STAR

The "politics of blame-game" over the communal attacks and vandalism of temples will hide the real conspirators involved with the attacks.

Rashed Khan Menon
PRESIDENT, BANGLADESH WORKERS' PARTY

It is the duty of the state to provide security of lives and belongings of every citizen; and ensure people's freedom of practicing their religion.

RIGHTS ORGANISATION
BLAST

The attacks and violence after the Cumilla incident are nothing but a "political matter".

Mahmudur Rahman
Manna
CONVENER, NAGORIK OIKYA

The people of this country, irrespective of religion, caste, and community, have been living side by side peacefully for ages. Thus, just like the past, they will not be misled in the name of religion.

BLUE PANEL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF DU

CONDEMNATIONS POUR IN

Calls for quick probe into attacks on Hindu community, exemplary punishment for perpetrators ring louder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights groups, academics and political parties yesterday condemned the attacks on puja mandaps, temples and houses and business establishments of Hindu community in different parts of the country.

They demanded proper investigation into the incidents and that the responsible persons are brought to book immediately.

BLAST Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (BLAST) in a press release said it is the duty of the state to provide security of lives and belongings of every citizen; and ensure people's freedom of practicing their religion.

BLAST hoped that the state's agencies concerned would be more cautious so that

people can exercise their constitutional rights and take necessary measures so that such incidents do not recur.

BANGLADESH WORKERS' PARTY

Speaking at a programme virtually, Bangladesh Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the "politics of blame-game" over the communal attacks and vandalism of temples will hide the real conspirators involved with the attacks.

None can avoid responsibility for the spread of communalism and communalism due to the "bow down" policy towards communal forces, free flow (communal forces) contents in social media, misinterpretation of religion, and degradation of non-communal values.

Meanwhile, Dhaka City Unit of Workers' Party also held a rally in front of Jatiya Press

Club in protest.

NAGORIK OIKYA

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya, termed the attacks and violence after Cumilla incident a "political matter."

He, while talking at a programme at the capital's Shahbagh area over rise of daily essentials, held the incumbent government responsible for the incidents.

DU BLUE PANEL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Awami League-backed Blue Panel teachers' association of Dhaka University (DU), in a statement, yesterday urged the government to immediately identify those responsible for the violence and bring them under the rule of law.

A vested quarter wants to destroy the country's communal harmony. Attacks on puja mandaps and incidents of vandalism and arson attacks on Hindu temples, homes and businesses in different districts are part of that design, they said, reports UNB.

The blue panel observed that a "particular political party and its allies" are trying to destroy communal harmony of the country.

"The people of this country, irrespective of religion, caste, and community, have been living side by side peacefully for ages. Thus, just like the past, they will not be misled in the name of religion," added the statement.

They said new laws, if needed, should be

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Dhaka-bound migration an obstacle for dev plans

Taposh tells seminar

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka-bound migration will enforce a snag for the implementation of development work, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said yesterday.



"If Dhaka-bound migration is not stopped, development plans will face an obstacle," he said while addressing a seminar at a city hotel.

Local Government Division and Water Aid Bangladesh jointly organised the seminar titled "Achievement of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) during the last 50 years and Future Plan", on the occasion of the golden jubilee of independence and birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Taposh said, "Dhaka is a city of 21 million people today. Will it be 30 million in 2030 and 50 million in 2041? We have to ensure the benefits of a better Dhaka for 20 million

dwellers first, that's why we need to ensure jobs, employment, and other facilities in the country's villages."

Taposh said Dhaka-bound migration can be stopped only after implementation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision of "turning villages into townships."

The mayor, however, assured that Dhaka dwellers will get better civic services by 2030.

Meanwhile, he said around 95 percent house owners do not maintain septic tanks but homeowners need to take steps to ensure that.

According to the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009, application and permission for reconstruction of buildings have to be obtained from the city corporation, but it is being provided by Rajuk till date, Taposh added.

"We have formulated a policy and sent it to the ministry. The ministry is reviewing it. We will get it by December and start implementing it from next year," he said.

Bangladesh to send more workers to Romania

Says foreign minister, after Romania decides to recruit 40,000 manpower from abroad

UNB, Dhaka

Romania has decided to recruit around 40,000 foreign workers, paving the way for Bangladesh to send more workers to the country.



"We've already sent around 1,000 workers. We can send more. Romania decided to recruit around 40,000 workers from abroad," Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said on Thursday while talking about his recent visit to Romania.

He said the Romanian government prefers government-to-government recruitment, as it feels more comfortable recruiting people in a better-regulated way. "There's no space for illegal entry that way," the foreign minister said, adding that some 860 Bangladeshis entered Germany from Romania illegally. Those 860 will be sent back to Bangladesh through International Organization for Migration (IOM).

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

As our rivers lie dying

Though govt identified Bangshi, Dhaleshwari grabbers, action yet to be taken against them

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Two major riverbanks on the capital's outskirts remain at the mercy of illegal encroachers, and the only action the government has taken over the last decade is preparing lists of the grabbers, without taking any action against them.

Over the years, the government has prepared list after list, but with no action, an ever-increasing number of grabbers have all but taken over the Bangshi and Dhaleshwari rivers in Savar.

In 2014, an assistant commissioner (AC-land) in Savar prepared a list, listing 35 persons and institutions encroaching the Bangshi river.

Subsequently, the Dhaka district



Along with encroachment, Dhaleshwari has to suffer the additional affliction of toxic industrial waste discharge, due to its location beside tanneries.

FILE PHOTO

- 2014 list identified 35 grabbers
- 2018 list contained 65 names
- In 2019, two lists mentioned 234 grabbers

administration appointed an executive magistrate to run mobile courts to evict the illegal structures, but no such drive was conducted, said locals as well as officials of the district administration.

In 2018, another AC-land prepared a new list, which contains names of 65 grabbers -- both persons and institutions. Again, no action was taken against them.

Later in 2019, another AC-land prepared a revised list of Bangshi riverbank grabbers. In this new list, names of 134 persons and institutions were mentioned.

The list was submitted before the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC). Subsequently, NRCC uploaded it to its website.

Along with this list, NRCC disclosed another list, where it named 100 persons and institutions who were grabbing the Dhaleshwari riverbank.

NRCC then forwarded the lists to the district administration, asking it to take necessary measures to evict the illegal structures and take legal

action against the grabbers.

But to this day, no eviction drive has been conducted, nor has any grabber been punished, according to sources at the district administration.

Now, the administration officials are claiming that they would launch the long-awaited eviction drives soon.

"In the past, we could not conduct the drives due to multiple reasons. But hopefully, we will begin soon," said Mazaharul Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Savar.

However, the UNO, who is the government's administrative chief

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'Govt conspiring to kill Khaleda'

Claims Mirza Abbas

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Mirza Abbas yesterday alleged that the government is not allowing their party chairperson Khaleda Zia to go aboard for advanced treatment as part of a plot to kill her slowly.

"Doctors are saying our leader needs advanced treatment abroad, and this is the fact. But this government won't give her the scope to receive better treatment as its goal is to kill her slowly..." he said.

Speaking at a doa mahfil, the BNP leader alleged that the government kept Khaleda in jail with an intention of repressing her and thus pushed her towards death.

Jatiyatabadi Swachhasebak Dal arranged the programme at the party's Nayapaltan central office seeking blessings for the speedy recovery of ailing Khaleda.

On Tuesday, the BNP chairperson was admitted to Evercare Hospital with fever and some other underlying health problems.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Thursday categorically said the treatment of Khaleda is not



SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

1 more dies of dengue; 183 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died, while 183 were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8am yesterday. Of them, 42 cases were from outside Dhaka, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 3,004 were diagnosed during the running month. A total of 21,201 have been infected this year, and of them, 2,921 were from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 in August, 2,286 in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, and rest were diagnosed between January and April, according to DGHS.

As per DGHS data, 83 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year -- all in July, August, September and October.

Twelve people died

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

It is contrary to democratic practice

GM Quader on current constitution

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said the current constitution of the country is contradictory to democratic practice as it gives all power to a "single person."

"It's not possible to practise democracy in line with the current constitution. The constitution is contradictory to democratic practice," he said.

Speaking at a views-exchange meeting with the leaders of Gazipur city unit of Jatiya Party and its associate bodies at the party chairman's Banani office, GM Quader also said many articles of the constitution need to be amended to ensure democratic practice in Bangladesh.

"No member of Parliament from the ruling party can oppose any decision of the government due to Article 70 of the constitution. It helps consolidate all powers in the hands of one person. About 90 percent of the country's executive, legislative branches and also judiciary through the president is under the control of the head of government. So, nothing is possible to do going beyond what the head of government wants to," he observed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



At Bangshi river, illegal establishments, indiscriminate waste dumping, and sand trading is an ever-present sight.

PHOTO: STAR