

Hizb ut-Tahrir active defying ban

Taib Ahmed

The banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh is continuing campaigns for establishing a 'Khilafah state' through its websites, distribution of leaflets and posters and even by bringing out processions suddenly in the city and elsewhere in the country.

Defying the ban, activists of the Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh distributed leaflets at a number of mosques across the country after juma prayers on Friday, urging Muslims to establish 'Khilafat'.

Though the government slapped a ban on the activities of the outfit in 2009, it was running a website (www.khilafah.org) till Friday with write-ups and articles propagating theocratic doctrine of a 'Khilafah state' posted on it.

The website also contains photographs and press releases on their recent political activities, including processions and rallies.

When contacted, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission chairman Zia Ahmed told New Age that it was not in the jurisdiction of the commission to monitor activities of a banned outfit.

'The BTRC takes action if requested by intelligence agencies and others concerned. We cannot always look into who are launching websites. Whenever our attention is drawn to any such websites of banned organizations, we move in do stop them,' Ahmed said.

The leaflets distributed by the Hizb ut-Tahrir activists on Friday contained two website addresses – www.khilafat.org and www.hizb-ut-tahrir.info. The second address was, however, not functional.

Two activists of the banned Hizb ut-Tahrir were seen distributing leaflets at Purbo Rajabazar mosque after juma prayers' Zakir Hossain, a resident of the area, told New Age.

The leaflets asked the special parliamentary committee for constitutional amendments to reform the constitution into an Islamic one.

The government on October 22, 2009 banned the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, an international Islamist organisation, on security grounds.

Mosque-goers at Mohammadpur, Paltan and Jhigatala in the city also said they had seen Hizb ut-Tahrir operatives distributing leaflets after juma prayers on Friday.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, chief coordinator of Hizb ut-Tahrir, also a teacher of the Institute of Business Administration at Dhaka University, was arrested at his IBA residence on Green Road a few months back.

The Hizb ut-Tahrir was founded in Jerusalem in 1953, and started activities in Bangladesh in 2000.

Source: <http://www.newagebd.com/2010/aug/21/front.html#8>