

A&N Waqf Board, islanders pay rich tributes to freedom fighter, Allama Fazal Haq Khairabadi

12th of February 2019 is the 159th anniversary of Andaman Freedom Fighter Allama Fazal Haq Khairabadi whom islanders recognize in general parlance as Mazaar Baba.

Allama Fazal Haq Khairabadi (1797-1861) was a renowned philosopher, poet and a religious scholar, but was most remembered as a freedom fighter in these islands. He was born in 1797 in an affluent family in Khairabad (Old Oudh) in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh.

In 1831, Maulvi Khairabadi resigned from the Government job and spent most of his time in the scholarly work in the midst of the intellectuals like Mirza Ghalib, Mufi Saadruddin Azurda and Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar. Due to Islamic, rational and poetic excellence, Maulvi Khairabadi was especially very close to the court of Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.

Besides being a scholar of Islamic studies and theology, he was also a literary persona, especially of Urdu, Arabic and Persian literature. A large number of couplets in Arabic are attributed to him. He edited the first Diwan of Mirza Ghalib on his request. He had a phenomenal memory and memorized the Quran in a little over 4 months. He

also completed the curriculum in Arabic, Persian and religious studies by the age of thirteen. On account of his deep knowledge and erudition he was called Allama and later was venerated as a great Sufi. He was also bestowed with the title Imam Hikmat and Kalam (The Imam of logic, philosophy and literature). He possessed a great presence of mind and was very witty. There are many stories about his rapport with Mirza Ghalib and other contemporary eminent poets, writers and intellectuals.

Allama Fazal Haq Khairabadi played the most active role in the Indian mutiny of 1857. He also mobilised the Muslim masses and other people in general through 'Fatwa-e-Jehad' (religious decrees) to wage war against the British Government. It is also said that he had prepared a temporary constitution for the rebel Government of Delhi and was also a member of the military council, which was practically controlling all the rebel administration. After the re-occupation of Delhi by the British, Maulvi continued his anti-British activities by joining the revolutionaries of Lucknow and Awadh. In the last, Maulvi Khairabadi surrendered and after a short trial, he was



transported to Andaman Islands for life imprisonment. He reached Port Blair by a ship known as 'Fire Queen' on 8th October 1859.

Khairabadi wrote two classic books in Arabic in the prison titled 'Al-Surat-ul-Hindia' and 'Al-Fitnat-ul-Hindia'. The contents of these books, he wrote on his clothes and papers with soft coal and pencil, sent to his son through a released convict, are fine source of knowledge regarding the Indian revolts and the conditions of prisoners in the Andaman Islands. These books are the best writings on the topic of Indian uprising by any Indian Islamic scholar.

These books, particularly, deal with the socio-political conditions of that time and the cruelties committed by the British on Indian population. Maulvi Khairabadi also criticised those sepoys who had left the battlefield and returned to their homes in lack of salary and proper wages. He was equally against both the Hindus and Muslims who were supporting the British forces at the time of crisis.

He was a true patriot and lover of his motherland. Undoubtedly, his role during the revolt of 1857 and his books are the testimony of his patriotism and devout for India. The illustrious son of Maulvi

Khairabadi, tried his level best to prove him innocent. Eventually, he became successful in his efforts as the British Government freed Allama Fazal Haq Khairabadi. The happy son moved to Andaman to get his father released from the prison, but when he arrived in Andaman on 12 February 1861, he saw a funeral procession was moving towards a nearby graveyard. When he enquired he found that it was the last journey of his father, who had freed himself not only from the prison, but from the paining earthly bondages.

His grave site now Mazaar or say Dargah located at sea shore at South Point is visited by a large number of people regardless of caste, creed or religion. The Mazaar stands as a main pilgrimage centre where Hindu-Muslim and other religious people of the islands gather and unite themselves, pray to 'Mazaar Baba' and have feast together.

On his 159th death anniversary, the A&N Waqf Board in memory of the great scholar and freedom fighters organised various socio-cultural programmes in the city and conveyed the message to the islanders to follow his path of selfless life and his messages for the welfare of people and harmonious relationships in the islands.

LG presents commendation certificates to three persons



PORT BLAIR, FEB 11/-/ Dr G Janhvi, Professor & HoD, Community Medicine Department, ANIMS, Ms Vicky Nagar and Mr. Emant Jhunjhunwala Students, ANIMS were presented with Commendation Certificate by Admiral D K Joshi, PVS, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman Islands Development Agency in recognition of their Project towards formulating procedures and inducing behavioural changes in patients for improving Tuberculosis detection rate. Mr Chetan Bhusan Sanghi, Chief Secretary and Mr Vikram Dev Dutt, Principal Secretary PVS, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), (Health) along with Director and senior faculty of ANIMS were present on the occasion.

LPG crisis again at Rangat, Parnashala in Middle Andaman

BY SENSITIVE KUMAR

RANGAT, FEB 11/-/ People in different parts of these islands have been facing hardships owing to delay in the supply of cooking gas cylinders for the past many years. Any disruption in the supply of LPG means a harrowing time for a household and the homemaker of Rangat was very critical to say that consumers in the region have been starting the roads looking for LPG supply trucks for the past two months, but returning without cylinder. "Erratic supply is the main grouse of the customers here. Though some delay is inevitable, but this time there has been no

consumers in Rangat and Parnashala for the past two months. Consumers are fuming over recurring disruption in supply of LPG cylinders that has forced household to turn to firewood and kerosene to keep their kitchen fires burning.

Reacting to such whimsical supply, the homemaker of Rangat was very critical to say that consumers in the region have been starting the roads looking for LPG supply trucks for the past two months, but returning without cylinder. "Erratic supply is the main grouse of the customers here. Though some delay is inevitable, but this time there has been no

delivery even after two months," said the homemaker. "LPG delivery services have become so unreliable that consumers are forced to depend on firewood to keep their kitchen fire burning. Several residents can be seen venturing into forest to collect firewood for cooking. Commercial establishments, mainly hotels and restaurants functioning in the Middle Andaman region are also bearing the brunt of irregular supply of cooking. Anger among consumers is gradually reaching its peak and a massive outburst is likely in this region," said some others.

As per reports, LPG refills have not reached

TN govt announces assistance of Rs 2,000 to BPL families

CHENNAI, FEB 11/-/ The Tamil Nadu government today announced a special assistance of Rs 2,000 each to about 60 lakh below poverty line families across the state, keeping in mind the impact of Gaja cyclone as well as the prevailing drought. Making a statement under Rule 110 in the Assembly, chief minister K Palaniswami said the proposal was part of the state government's efforts to ensure inclusive growth. "Considering the impact of Gaja cyclone in many districts as well as the drought, the special assistance was being provided," he said.

Panel of secys formed to ensure justice for Kargil: J-K Gov

JAMMU, FEB 11/-/ Amid ongoing protests by people of Kargil over their demand for rotational divisional Jammu and Kashmir, Jammund Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has said a committee of secretaries has been formed to ensure justice for the district.

Hundreds of Kargil residents, including women and children, took out a rally in the winter capital Jammu today and chanted slogans in support of their demand for equal share in the recently created separate division for Ladakh and rotational divisional headquarters.

"The divisional status for Ladakh was a long-standing demand of the people of the region. We have formed a committee of secretaries which will look into the issue so that Kargil gets justice," Malik told newsmen on the sidelines of a function in Katra township of Reasi district. In a major decision on February 8, the Jammu and Kashmir administration sanctioned creation of a separate administrative and revenue division for Ladakh, with its headquarters at Leh.

Cutting across party lines, prominent politicians from Kargil affiliated with the National Conference, the PDP and the Congress came together and threatened mass agitation if the Governor administration did not review its decision to permanently post the divisional commissioner and inspector general of police headquarters in Leh. On Sunday, thousands of people also staged a rally in Kargil and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner to press for their demand.

Boy mauled to death by leopard in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, FEB 11/-/ A three-year-old boy was mauled to death by a leopard in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district, a forest official said on Monday. Mohit Ratadiya was sleeping inside a tent in Jamnuda village under Mahuva forest range, located around 260 km from here, when a leopard sneaked in and took him away on Sunday night, assistant conservator of forests Vijay Rathod said. The child belonged to a family of shepherds from Pipaliya village in Rajkot district who had migrated to Bhavnagar sometime back, Rathod said. "On Sunday night, the leopard entered the tent set up in an open field where the child and his family members were staying. Their sheep and goats panicked at the sight of the leopard and started bleating," he said. (PTI)

Had Lokpal been implemented, Modi would be 'number 1 accused' in Rafale case: Moily

NEW DELHI, FEB 11/-/ Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have been 'number one accused' in the Rafale issue had Lokpal been implemented, the Congress today said in Lok Sabha that his broad shoulders cannot stand the 'bullet of corruption' if anybody has to be held guilty in Rafale deal. "It is the PM and PM alone", Congress leader Veerappa Moily said launching a scathing attack against Modi and the Union government during a discussion on the interim budget. He alleged that the Rafale issue has become a "household scandal" and that Modi may "escape" his responsibility today but not in the days to come. Moily cited recent critical media reports on the fighter aircraft deal to target the government. While the defence budget saw only a paltry increase in absolute terms and the location of the sector as percentage of the GDP has gone down, he alleged the ruling BJP is using money to "buy" MLAs, build "palatial" offices and filling its coffers. On the Rafale deal, in which the Congress has accused the government of corruption, the former Union minister said: "Now it is crystal clear why Lokpal (law) is not being implemented. If it had been in place, the PM would be number one accused." He was referring to the law on setting up anti-corruption ombudsman. Due to this "guilty conscience", the Union government has been using investigative agencies against its rivals, he alleged.

In an apparent reference to Modi's comments about his "56-inch chest", Moily said: "When bullet of corruption is hit, his broad shoulders cannot bear it." (PTI)

Customers troubled after ATMs go dry at Campbell Bay

BY CORRESPONDENT

CAMPBELL BAY, FEB 11/-/ Bank customers in the southernmost tip of the country, Campbell Bay, reportedly facing hardships due to non-availability of cash at all the Bank ATMs installed in the region. All the cash dispensing machines installed by The Andaman and Nicobar State cooperative Bank and Syndicate Bank ran out of cash since last Friday causing inconvenience to the customers. Many faced hardships due to failed

ATM transactions in the past three days, while normalcy resumed by Monday afternoon.

According to reports, the ATMs at Campbell Bay runs dry within hours due to heavy withdrawals from customers in the region. Recurring shortage of cash at the ATMs leads to serpentine queues at the facilities. "Scores of customers in this region were left cash-strapped since Friday due to cash crunch in the ATMs here. The ATMs here frequently run short of cash inconveniencing customers. The management of both the banks

should take immediate measures to ensure timely replenishment of cash in the ATMs here," said some residents of Campbell Bay.

"Cash replenishment at the ATMs couldn't be done on Saturday being a 2nd Saturday and the next day being Sunday. However, normal ATM transactions resumed on Monday. The Bank also resolved complaints received from customers due to failed transactions resulting out of cash crunch at the ATM," said a staff of the Cooperative Bank branch of Campbell Bay.

AYUSH Health Camp at Calicut

PORT BLAIR, FEB 11/-/ As part of its activities under National AYUSH Mission, an AYUSH health camp and awareness programme was organized by District Hospital, Garacharma recently at Panchayat Hall, Calicut, South Andaman. Dr Sivananda, Child Specialist and Dr Sabita Biswas, Medical Officer (Homoeo) of District Hospital, Garacharma examined around 33 of patients during the camp. The general public including mothers and children participated in the programme. Refreshments were also distributed to the participants. The programme was facilitated by Smt Asha Majeed, Pradhan, Calicut, South Andaman.



Anxiety looms as Sabarimala temple reopens today

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 11/-/ There is a sense of anxiety in and around Sabarimala as the Lord Ayyappa shrine is all set to reopen on Tuesday for monthly worship, after witnessing frenzied protests during the recently concluded annual pilgrim season over the entry of young women. The hilltop temple would be opened for five days till February 17 for the monthly pujas during the Malayalam month of Kumbham, temple authorities said today. Several special rituals including 'k a l a b h a b h i s h e k a m', 'sahasarakalasa' and 'lalsharhana' would be performed during the five days at the shrine,

the 'sanctum sanctorum' of which would be thrown open by chief priest Vasudevan Nampoothiri on Tuesday evening. Tantri (head priest) Kandararu Rajeevaru would also be present during the time of pujas, they said. As the shrine is set to open, state police has stepped up vigil in and around Sabarimala in view of possible protests by Sangh outfits against the entry of women, belonging to the traditionally barred age group. The police said certain restrictions had already been imposed in areas from Nilakkal, the base camp to Sannidhanam (temple complex) to ensure smooth darshan for devotees. "Considering the untoward incidents caused by

various organisations in areas around Sabarimala when the shrine was opened for the Thulamasa puja and the protests over the Supreme Court order allowing entry of women of all ages into the shrine, certain restrictions have been imposed in areas to ensure smooth darshan for devotees," an official release said. Devotees and newsmen would be allowed to travel from Nilakkal to Pamba and Sannidhanam only after 10 am on February 12, it said. The BJP and Sangh Parivar outfits, which had spearheaded the agitation against implementation of the September 28 Supreme Court verdict permitting women of all age groups into the shrine, are

yet to reveal whether they would try to block young women. The areas in and around the hilltop shrine had witnessed widespread violence after the CPM-led LDF government decided to implement the apex court order allowing women of menstruating age into the temple. Marking the culmination of the over two-month-long stormy annual pilgrimage season, the Lord Ayyappa temple was closed on January 20. Traditionally, women of menstruating age or in the age group of 10 to 50 years were not allowed to enter the temple as the deity Lord Ayyappa, is believed to be in the form of 'Naisthika brahmachari' (perennial celibate), (PTI)

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