

What We Want, Why and How...

Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir

Preface

Over the years since its beginning till date, Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir has become a students' association well-known to the people and students of the country. This has been possible with the endless mercy of Allah, the Almighty. With the enhancement of Shibir's reputation, interest and keenness about it are also rising high. It is, therefore, the demand of time to widely introduce Shibir as a constructive movement of the students based on the ideas of Islam. In this booklet, the background for the establishment of Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir, its goals and objectives, and its programme have been outlined in short. We hope that a reading of this booklet would give readers a precise idea about the Chatra Shibir. May Allah enable us all to play bold role in establishing His religion (Deen).

Am in.

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahini

Dignity of Man

We are human beings. The best of all creation or *Ashraful Makhluqat*. But why men have been accorded this superiority?

Man has been endowed with conscience and intelligence i.e., the rational faculty of distinguishing between the right and the wrong. Man has been given the freedom of thought and work. If a man is governed by conscience and reason in his free and unfettered life, then only can he be called superior to other creatures in status.

Purpose behind the Creation of Men

There remains a specific purpose behind every creation. Allah has created human beings certainly with a noble purpose. This purpose, for them, is to play in their life on earth the role of Allah's representatives.

Since men have been sent to this earth with this noble mission, they are honoured with this supreme status. But if they are swept away by unrestrained freedom and transcend all bounds of conscience, if they deviate from their noble duty, their dignity welters in the ground. In the language of the Quran, They are like cattle, nay, far more inferior to animals.

Destination of Man

None of us are going to live permanently in this world. Here goes on an unending game of 'birth and death.' Life on earth is not end of everything. After death, man has to enter an eternal life called *akhirat*. Everybody will be judged for what he has done on earth. The Almighty Allah has made the arrangement to keep record of all the activities of man. On the day of final reckoning this record will be produced. Those who will play the role of representing Allah in the life on earth i.e.. those who will lead their life in the way directed by Allah, will get their reward. A towering inferno remains ready to grill those who will defy the commands of Allah and do misdeeds and disruption in social life. Man comes to this world and after a collection of moments he then bid farewell to this world leaving space for a new generation. Every thoughtful person has something to ponder upon this. Therefore, one who understands the ultimate destiny of man must decide to lead a life in the path sketched by Allah.

Islam, Our Code of Life

The vital question is — how will man follow the commands of Allah? How will they perform the duty of Allah's representatives? What will be their role in this vast arena of mundane life?

In response to all these questions, Allah has sent a complete and flawless code of life for mankind. The name of that divine code or guidebook is Al Quran. Allah has not stopped there with the guidebook, He has also sent Rasul(S) as model of life for us and to practically teach us how to make use of this guidebook to traverse the rugged terrain of life. As for the Rasul(S), Allah the Almighty says:

“Ye have indeed the best ideal embodied in the character and conduct of the messenger of Allah (Surah Ahjab, Ayat-2 1). The code of life determined by Allah and guided by Rasul(S) is called Islam. Islam is the only complete and flawless code of life for mankind. Islam is the only Charter of emancipation for humanity. Islam is not a mere name for a conventional

religion. It is rather a reliable system to offer solution to all sorts of problems on earth covering the time span of a man from cradle to grave. This also offer solution to man's personal, social, national, international, familial and other kinds of problems etc. It answers all our enquiries about life. It is our sole vessel to depend on in crossing the tumultuous waters of the life in the hereafter.

Allah is the master of the entire creation. He enjoys absolute and only sovereign power. He is the giver of life and death, sustenance and laws and is the ultimate judge. All prayers of the created universe is to go into Him alone, Everything starting from the smallest invisible insect abides by His commands. Thanks to His limitless powers and absolute control, there is no chaos in the functioning of the entire universe.

Thou will never see any inconsistency in the creation of Almighty Allah the most gracious. Stretch thy vision around, Canst thou any flaw in it? Thy vision will come back tired (Surah Mulk, Ayat-3-4.)

This marvelous management of the creation can not fail to stir the mind of any thoughtful person. This is why the natural urge of the human life is to follow Islam, the edicts of the Almighty Allah. And those who lead their lives this way and act out the role of the representatives of Allah are the Muslims.

Duties of a Muslim

Mere acceptance of Allah as God, Mohammed (S) as Rasul (prophet) and the Quran as the Scripture does not make a Muslim. A Muslim is one who has coloured his/her life in the hue of Allah, who has given Allah's satisfaction priority over any mundane thing, who has set the life in hereafter as his/her real destination and who is constantly calling others towards beauty and the truth. In fact, the Muslim nation works as an international revolutionary procession. Muslims are the only chosen nation to Allah.

“Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah.” Surah Al-Imran, verse-110. Violation of the order of nature set by Allah i.e., the infringement of the rules of the Creator is the root of all the misfortunes in man's life. It is the fundamental duty of the Muslims to call upon the mankind to abide by the rules of Allah and to make utmost efforts for ensuring welfare of the humanity through whole hearted practice of those rules of Allah in every step of life. As long as the Muslims performed this duty they were held in high esteem as a nation. They could claim supremacy in the world as a nation. The time they turned indifferent they met with debacle, ignominy of slavery, disaster, persecution and humiliation. Afghanistan, Arakan, Kashmir, Palestine, the Philippines, Bosnia, Chechnia, Kosovo —wherever we take a look, a hapless picture of the Muslims is seen. This is, as it were, the real picture of the words of the Quran

“Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place. But Him ye would not harm in the least”. Surah Taubah, verse-39.

The Muslims who once disseminated the torch of knowledge and science in the Middle Age throughout Europe, who initiated a civilization of peace and harmony, who established the most successful welfare state in the history of the world, are presently staggering far behind. We are far from enjoying national identity, sovereignty of the State and material development, not to mention a global leadership. Due to hundreds of years of slavery, the Muslims have lost their own values, culture, conviction and ideals. In spite of Islam as priceless treasure in their possession, the Muslims today are resorting to human ideologies to solve their problems.

Failure of Human Ideologies

The human ideologies that the people today are falling back on, have miserably failed in bringing peace and emancipation for humanity. Innovations of science and advancement of modern technology have brought the world within man's reach. The range of man's control has transcended the earth and gone beyond the planets. But man is yet to catch the white pigeon of peace. The coveted peace process is yet to be devised. Capitalism and imperialism are creating discrimination, chaos and anarchy — all in the name of freedom and democracy. Narrow nationalist feelings and aspirations have bred envy, conflict and discord among nations. In the name of peace and equality, social imperialism or socialism once confined billions of people around the world to an animalistic lifestyle, and finally had to disappear forever as the most hated and failed ideology of history. Today in this world dominated by capitalism in the label of new world order the humanity is being downtrodden in the name of human rights. Heart-rending screams of the oppressed and the pervasive smell of gunpowder are making our atmosphere heavy. The self-declared champions of democracy of the world, disguised in the cloak of democracy, are patronizing the butchers of humanity. Billions of dollars are being injected to keep the arms race while millions of children are going to bed with hunger. The humanity today is scared at the omens of nuclear war. All these speak of the failure of human ideologies.

Problems of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is our homeland. 88% percent of the people here are Muslims. We have a long history and tradition of struggle. The people of this country have never bowed to the injustice and falsehood. Time and again, the dominating powers have tried to bring the people of this country to their own grip. They have tried to trample the faith of the majority of this people. But over the ages, some valiant Muslims were born on this soil. Religious leaders like Shah Makhdum, Shah Jalal. Khan Jahan Ali(R) established and solidified Islam. Political figures like Titumir, Haji Shariat Ullah and Sher-e-Bangla have strengthened our sense of identity and uniqueness and emboldened our movement for freedom. The people of this land did never accept the yoke of the British rule of two centuries. The people of this country plunged

into an all out effort for realizing a separate habitat in the region for the Muslims in the process of dismantling the British overlordship. Even the role of Bangladesh in establishing Pakistan was absolute and unparalleled. But unfortunately, during 24 years of Pakistani government, people of this land could not enjoy peace and happiness. At long last, in 1971 freedom was, once again, achieved through the sacrifice of millions of people.

But Bangladesh in the post-liberation era started a bleak journey in the socioeconomic and political arenas. In addition to an extreme deterioration of law and order situation, corruption, nepotism, injustice, indiscriminate torture i.e., a general anarchy pushed the country into chaos and disaster. Instead of recognizing Islam, the ideology of the majority of the people of this country, a conspiracy was made to destroy the faith of the nation. A deleterious plan was undertaken to turn Islam and Islamic institutions controversial. Scrubbing the culture rooted in the soil of this country, practice of alien *mangalic* culture was imported. The country was thus thrown into a crisis of identity.

Strangling the freedom of press and launching a one-party regime, a particular camp established its autocratic dominance in the country. Political persecution and deprivation of democratic rights rendered our national political life extremely perilous. Even in the economic field a philosophy of “turn things upside down and let us have our day” took over. On the one hand, a huge number of people were forced to live below the poverty line, On the other hand, a handful of opportunists fattened themselves overnight. The lion’s share of the wealth fell into the hands of the neo-Bengali Dauds and Ispahanis.

As a result, the national politics witnessed a changeover in 1975. But the nation still could not come out of an autocratic system that took a strong hold in nation’s life. Although there was a change of fate of those we went to power the lot of the ordinary masses has not improved as yet. Like before, in 1991 the people of this country returned a democratic government to power in 1991 through a mass movement of 1990. In 1996 they too started to act like an autocratic regime. As a result, the people of the country were compelled to launch another movement. But the 1996 government also started betraying the nation and reverted to the old game. Fact remains that— over time, whosoever the people of this country wanted to turn to ultimately frustrated them. Following the course of change, the people of this country wanted to heave a sigh of relief. But after so much of changes, has our expectation met what we gained? We got freedom in 1947. We became independent once again in 1971. Despite winning victory twice, why are our freedom and sovereignty still at stake? What did we want? Why is this yawning gap between our expectation and gain?

The Sole Problem

In fact, a huge population, illiteracy and poverty are not the key problems of this country of boundless natural resources. Our basic problem lies elsewhere. The problem comes from a fundamental question. We do not have inadequacy of resources. What we are in need of are actually honest, eligible and righteous people who could undertake the development works

taking our national life and assets kept in their safe custody. Truth is, whatever change is made in the areas of politics and economics, it would not see a desired outcome unless a group of honest, idealistic and pious people come to power. The educational institutions are supposed to make people of this quality. Question is: Are our educational system and educational institutions helpful to achieve the desired standard of creating national leadership? Let's have a look at the present situation of the educational institutions to get an answer to this question.

Anarchy in the Educational Arena

Anarchy is reigning in our educational institutions. The educational institutions of this country are yet to shake off the sinister claws of terrorism that took hold of our institutions ever since the war of liberation. Due to absence of any specific goal, our corrupt educational system failed to present an ideal person. Since the educational system and curricula do not reflect our own values, religious faith and tradition, our educational system is unable to create a real patriotic and independent minded citizen. Such an educational system has been imposed upon the students of our country in the name of secularism, for which the students, although remaining citizens of the country, are getting westernized in thinking. Thus, the tender students are being pushed into the fold of a materialistic culture which is western in essence. Ironically, the West, itself is the victim of an ideological bankruptcy and is groveling under a myriad of social complications. This is finding its impact on the youth of our society. Social unrest and an all-engulfing frustration are increasing. The inevitable corollary is the spread of terrorism in the educational institutions and dead addiction to drugs.

The Crisis of Our Educational System

Our educational system is beset with various problems. The unplanned educational system has miserably failed to shape up a productive citizen. Absence of vocational training facilities is causing increase in the rate of unemployment. This is making higher education meaningless. Ever-increasing cost of educational materials is taking education beyond the reach of the common people. A form of religious education called Madrasa Education is bringing out neither a studentship capable of reflecting true religious tradition nor a person suitable for the modern times. Riddled with terrorism, our educational institutions do not have any proper environment for education. The environment congenial to create appropriate man is now held hostage to the meritless terror-dependent student leadership. The student politics of the lackeys is leading the most meritorious part of the nation to the brink of destruction and ruination. The conventional educational system is unable to inspire the mind and thought of a student with the feelings like fraternity, love, patriotism and moral values.

Cultural Bankruptcy

Our cultural arena also is undergoing a situation of acute bankruptcy. In the name of culture, bad culture is in practice. In the name of culture and thought satellites, all the arrangements have been made to ruin the character of our youth. In the name of *shikha chirantan*, the conspiracy is on to uproot the culture of *tauhid* of this country and to introduce fire worshipping. Our future generation is being thrown into the maze of *jaheliat* or darkness through falsehood and idolizing of individuals. On the one hand, the people in power are speaking of Islam. While on the other they are damaging Islam through so-called entertainment activities and practice of freethinking. If this situation is allowed to continue, our own identity, national culture and tradition i.e., our distinct individuality are certain to face extinction. Hence, we have no alternative of standing straight in the world, to taking initiative to practice, promote and expand our own civilization and culture as a Muslim-majority country.

Which Way to Go for Freedom

The journey of Bangladesh began with the pledge of turning the country into a Golden Bangla. But the dearth of golden people has not allowed it to happen. The 28 years of history is the history of regress. It is because those who ascend to power in this country remain more preoccupied with doing good to themselves than to the ordinary people. As a result, while all other nations are preparing for meeting the challenge of the new millennium, problems are accumulating everywhere in our country due to economic stagnancy, unrest in politics, erosion of values in the society, glut of rotten culture, unending terrorism and anarchy in educational institutions, corruption of the ruling groups factionalization and above all undemocratic autocratic mentality. Everybody wants an end to this situation; but the solution is not coming. We must realize the reasons behind. The freedom loving people do not want to run after a mirage of emancipation. So it is time to identify the problems and find out which way to go for freedom of the rightless people of this country.

Islam is the path for Emancipation

We have heard lot of slogans, incantations and catchy words promising us freedom. With these words and promises, the exponents of man-made ideologies have deceived us on many occasions. We do not want to be deceived any more. We want peace and happiness. Socialism that tried to free humanity from capitalism with high sounding calls and led the people of the world towards Marxism and Leninism has fallen within a short time through the demise of the Soviet Union. This has proved that man can not chart the path for man's emancipation at any point of time. Only He who has created men knows which way is the

welfare and liberty of man. He is Allah the creator of the universe. Having created man, Allah has taught them which way to go for peace and liberation. The real development of our social system is possible only through following Al Islam given by Allah and its full implementation in the society. Only Islamic fraternity and philanthropy can consolidate national unity. Islam is the only safeguard in protecting freedom of the country from the aggressive force of other beliefs on all three fronts. There is no alternative to the honest, eligible and pious leadership in eradicating corruption, misrule and anarchy from the society. These leaders would epitomize Islamic ideals. They will conduct the country as servants of the people in the manner the *Kholafa-e-Rashedin* did. The way to get rid of the leadership with out ideals is to establish the honest and eligible people and uproot the dishonest ones. In the backdrop of the failure of human ideologies all over the world, the East and the West alike are voicing the same slogan: “We want Islam, we want the Quran.” Today, it is a verified truth that the victory of Islam is inevitable in order to liberate humanity.

Uncompromising Jihad — Needed to Ensure a Society Free from Oppression

There is no want of natural resources in our country. Yet 80% of the people are living below the poverty line and are struggling against the adversities of life. 63% of the people of this agrarian country are landless and about 15 million eligible men are unemployed. Hunger, poverty and unemployment are our constant-companion. Still now, people are dying from hunger in this country. Millions of people do not have any shelter. Numerous people are living a sub-human life on sidewalks, stations and alleys in towns.. Everyday, thousands of people are dying owing to the absence of medical treatment. The air is growing heavy with the screams of thousands of helpless, ill, lame and handicapped people. Still today we come across people engaged in a tug-of-war over leftover food in the dustbins. But the lion’s share of the wealth of the country is being enjoyed by 8% of the affluent people. They reside in the high-rise buildings of the posh areas of Dhaka. Cry of the millions of rural have-nots never reaches their ears. The Quran, therefore, declares:

“And why should ye not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who being weak, ill-treated and oppressed-men, women, and children are crying : “Our lord, rescue us from this town, set us free from the oppressors and raise for us from thee one who will protect , and raise for us from thee one who will help”. Surah Nisa, Ayat-75.

It becomes clear from the revolutionary call of Al Quran that it is a obligatory duty of a Muslim to fight in favour of the oppressed and destitute people.

No human doctrines can keep people from committing misdeeds unless people put their complete faith in Allah and are afraid of the life hereafter. So, righteous leadership and citizens should be built up. No human theories have been proved flawless and best. Only Islam can give full solution to our problems.

Unified Effort of the Students is Essential to Improve the Lot of the Nation

We think that an organized effort is necessary to bring about a desired change in Bangladesh. Those who want to see Islam established as a revolutionary ideology throughout the world, must organize widespread movements through organization. The youth have many grave responsibilities in this regard. It is because the community of the youth is the most dynamic part of the society, an unstoppable force. No revolution in the world came out successful without active participation of the youth. The responsibilities of the students in a developing country like ours are even more crucial. It is, therefore, essential to organize the students on the basis of the Islamic model in order to confront the crises of the national life.

Advent of Shibir at a Critical Moment of the Nation

The student community of Bangladesh is highly conscious. In the past, they played historic roles in many movements such as the language Movement, Liberation Movement, and anti-autocratic democratic movements. The need for a constructive movement among the students was felt in the social, political, educational and cultural context of our country even much earlier. At long last, “Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir” came into being on 6 February in 1977 to perform a historic responsibility.

Objective and Goal

Unlike other student associations based on particular slogans or an issue intent on making temporary gains, “Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir was formed to work amongst the students with an invitation towards Islam. Over ages, the prophets, *Rasuls*, *ambia-e-kirams* had worked among people with the same invitation. Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir is a religious institution. We have set the salvation in *akhirat* as our final target. We do not hanker after temporal success. Worldly allurements are not what we aim at. In the language of our constitution the objective of goal of the association is:

“Attaining Allah’s Satisfaction by Re-structuring Overall Life in accordance with the Guideline set up by Allah and presented by Rasul(S)”.

In fact, being a Muslim means sacrificing oneself to establish Islam. The demand of faith in Allah and love of truth is that a man would do the utmost to enliven and activate in the society what Allah loves and the truthful men had accepted and would himself accept it.. Likewise, he would grow impatient and keen to eliminate what is not liked by Allah and what runs contrary to the truth. So, the Quran declares,

“O Messenger! Proclaim the message which hath been sent to thee from thy Lord. If thou didst not, thou wouldst not have fulfilled and proclaimed His Mission.” Surah Maida, Ayat-70.

As it is unthinkable that there is no pulse or heart in a living creature, it is also unthinkable that a Muslim would not feel inspired and goaded to establish the truth or would not remain involved in practical struggle. Struggle for establishing truth and dedicating oneself to that is necessary. Allah Himself declares in the Quran,

‘Go ye forth whether equipped lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle with your goods and your persons in the cause of Allah. That is best for you, if ye but knew’ Surah Taubah, Ayat-41

Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir is whole-heartedly committed to developing every aspect of human life in line with the Islamic ideology. Basically, this endeavour is responsibility demanded by *iman*. This vital responsibility is assigned to every *mumin* the moment he develops *iman*.

The holy Quran adds, “Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong. They are the ones to attain success.” Surah Al-Imran, Ayat-104

It is very clear from this *verse* that the Muslims have been created to serve the task of telling others to perform honest deeds and not to commit dishonest tasks. If the Muslims today make it a mission of their life that they would invite others to the path of good, our ailments resulted from following the instances of the deviated would not remain at all.

Elsewhere, Allah is declaring, “God hath purchased of the Believers their persons and their goods for theirs (in return) is the Garden of Paradise: They fight in His cause and slay and are slain.” Surah Taubah, Ayat-111.

Hence, Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir has come forward perform that duty which was imposed on the Muslims of calling others to the path of good and emancipation of the humanity that forgot the objective. Allah has purchased our lives and our assets in return of heaven. Therefore, the way a *mumin*’s life and assets would be employed is the way of Allah. In other words, it is the path of establishing His chosen religion.

It is very painful that, having lost in the maze of ideologies, people today in Bangladesh as well as in the world are straying from the real objective and goal of life and are rushing headlong towards the epicenter of ruin and destruction. Can any earnest Muslim sit idle seeing this sad and disastrous end of humanity?

Allah has clearly said, “Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong. They are the ones to attain success.” Surah Al-Imran, Ayat-104

When the entire community of the Muslims is immersed in delusion, a jamat (group) has to come forward to be the torch bearer of the truth. Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir has been formed with a view to performing this divine task among the students of this country.

Invitation (Dawah)

Bangladesh is the second largest Muslim country in the world. Although 85 percent of the people of this country are Muslims, nowhere in this country starting from the personal to familial life, social, national, economical and political spheres are the idea of Islam established. This applies more to the sector of education. But without a full-fledged Islamic system of education, the future of this nation is really grim.

Therefore, in the context of the absence of a complete Islamic educational system. Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir has been working as an alternative Islamic educational institution. We are trying to introduce ourselves through personal contacts with the students, holding general meetings, arranging tea-sessions, picnics, and reception for the newcomers, organizing seminars, general knowledge competition, doing postering and distributing introductory leaflets and periodicals etc. At the same time, we have been inviting students to seek knowledge of their own initiative. Islam has declared the quest for knowledge as a *farz* or a must and our prophet Mohammed(S) has encouraged people to acquire knowledge by travelling, if necessary, to distant China.

The Muslims are in fact a missionary nation. The real mission of the Muslims is to establish the sovereignty of Allah and invite people to come to the service of Allah. This is why Allah declares in the Quran:

“Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah.” Surah Ale-Imran, Ayat-10.

Elsewhere He says, “Who is better in speech than one who calls to Allah, works righteously and says I am of those who bow in Islam”? Surah Hamim Sajdah, Ayat-33.

Allah adds: “O Messenger! Invite to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching ; and argue with them in ways that are best.” Surah Nahl. Ayat-125

Organization

Allah the Almighty's declaration is :“And hold ye fast all together the rope of Allah and be not divided.” Surah Ale-Imran, Ayat-103

Elsewhere He says:

“Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good enjoining what is right, and forbidding what is wrong. They are the ones to attain success. Surah Ali-Imran, Ayat-104

An organization is necessary for any movement. No movement is successful without an organization. Especially, it is impossible to remain Muslim in the true sense outside an organized life. This is why the great Prophet(S) says, “He who has left the *jamat*, has indeed left Islam.”(Abu Daud). In fact, we can observe the existence of organizations at the very start of the Islamic movement. The necessity of an organization has become more acute in the age of extreme hostilities from all fronts. Fact is, Islam can not thrive without an organization. This is why Hazrat Omar(R) said, “*La islama illabil jamat*” i.e., Islam is not there if there is no organization.

Training:

It has been said in the Quran:”It is He who has sent amongst the unlettered a messenger from among themselves to rehearse to them His signs, to train and purify them and to instruct them in scripture and wisdom, — although they had been before in manifest error.” Surah Jumah, Ayat-2.

For the successes and durability of an ideology or movement depend on a group of workers created in the mould of the ideology. This group of workers set examples by their work and activities. This is more true when it comes to an Islamic movement. To conduct and establish Islamic movement, the army of its workers must possess such sterling qualities of character so that the ordinary people are attracted to them. In the face of all the challenges of the *jaheliat* and of the rejected, they must prove superior in terms of knowledge and ability. Keeping this goal in view, Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir arranges for training for the students organized under this organization. We do not subscribe to the idea of only organizing a group of students and provoking their emotion with some smart slogans. It is our faith based responsibility to help them acquire comparative knowledge of Islamic life style and the systems of *jaheliat*. We are committed to building them in such a manner that they are able to face the forces of heresy with reason and courage. We need to give them such a training that they take as Islam as the only realistic ideology and place it in that manner before others. We have to train them so that each of our trainees are capable of building life in the light of Islam and leading the nation in the right path. We set our target at building them up in such a way that they can remain submitted to Allah through thick and thin. They have to be trained to play successful role in conducting Islamic state craft in future.

Our Prophet(S) says - "I have been chosen to take the morality of the humans up to the stage of perfection. [Muatta Imam Malek]. For realization of this objective, we have libraries in all our branches of organization and units. Literature is distributed at the initiatives of our workers and from the libraries. We arrange study circle and collective study for understanding a book or a particular issue. Educational camping and training sessions are organized with a view to rectifying the character and disposition of the workers, instilling into them a sense of fraternity and imparting them knowledge of Islam. Speakers' Forum and writers' association are formed in order to create orators, speakers and writers. We encourage students to say nightly prayers with a view to deepening *takwa* in them. Maintaining personal reports is mandatory for every single worker. These personal reports are designed to help them amend individual faults and failings and thus gradually enlighten them and help flourish their talent.

Islamic Education and Student Movement

The Almighty Allah has declared,"Allah will raise up, to suitable ranks and degrees those of you who believe and who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is well-acquainted with all ye do." Surah Mujadalah, Ayat-11

The shortcomings and failure of the conventional system of education in the country have already been discussed. The Islami Chatra Shibir firmly believes that it is not possible for a nation to build good citizens without establishing an Islamic system of education. So, we have been demanding strongly that the Islamic system of education be introduced and trying to make the public understand its necessity. We are playing an active role to build public opinion in favour of this demand. Many incidents of the past have proved that the Islam loving people of this country are for this system. But the government's hesitation is the main hurdle to it. Hence, we are determined to continue an uncompromising struggle in favour of an Islamic system of education.

As we are students, we can not remain indifferent to the problem. We are committed to acting as forerunners in the struggle for all the just demands of the students. We have a original approach to the solution of the problem. We want lasting solution to any kind of problem. We are not in favour of generating further problems rather than solving one. We are against making use of an issue to obtain a political gain or serve a coterie interest. We have placed our faith in constructive rather than destructive activities.

So far, we have outlined what we (ought to) do with respect to collective problems. Most of the personal problems of the students are financial problems. We work towards solving them organizationally, all by ourselves. There is a Students' Welfare division in each of our sections. The poor but meritorious students are provided with lodging and tuition. Stipend is awarded to the students who are unable to pay examination fees and are not able to buy their text books. To facilitate study, lending libraries are set up, coaching classes at no cost are arranged and free question papers and notes are distributed.

Student Elections

Islamic revolution is not practicable unless the dishonest leadership is removed and righteous leadership is established. We have been trying our best to establish leadership of good Islamic character also in the precincts of the educational institutions. This explains why we take part in *chatra sangsad* elections in schools, colleges, madrasas and universities, directly or indirectly.

Struggle for the Liberty of Humanity:

The Quran says, “ And why should ye not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who being weak, are ill-treated and oppressed-men, women, and children whose cry is “Our lord, rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors and raise for us from thee one who will protect and raise for us from thee one who will help”. Surah Nisa, Ayat-75.

The orgy of injustice, persecution and torture is going on all our the world. The world conscience is shivering from at the helpless screams of the oppressed. Humanity is at stake at the imperialist aggressions, political persecution, economical exploitation, social terrorism and anarchy, and cultural bondage. This hapless situation has not spared our motherland either. The cry of the oppressed and the famished, pitiful entreaty of the bare-bodied, and cultural ribaldry are now our constant-companions. We can not end this situation without an all encompassing social revolution. The change of leadership or political authority is indispensable in this regard. However, as a student organization, we can not also rush for political change. As a responsible student organization, we can not dissolve into contemporary politics. This, of course, does not mean that we will keep ourselves aloof from national problems. We notice national problems with awareness and in time of need, play stout and mass-orientated role in eradicating them. We are ready to take necessary measures in time of national crises.

Instead of participating in national and international politics, economics, administration etc., we rather give priority to acquiring knowledge on them and monitor them closely. We need to ascertain the underlying reason for the wretched situation of the national character at present and to find out the right path to its solution. We have to keep abreast of the political situation of the country. The source of ongoing political trends must be traced through analysis of history and the sequence of events. We must also know about the political parties that are active in the national political arena and know their characteristics. It is also necessary that we possess the basic substantive knowledge of different political ideologies so that we are able to understand what is beneficial and what is detrimental. We should acquire knowledge as to what is the solutions to the political problem and which way that solution might come. We should be able to know clearly about the overall ways and means of solving economical problems.

We must have an awareness of the dreadful consequences of cultural slavery. We must remain conscious of the destructive activities going on in the cultural turf and of their source, nature and scope. We must understand how we can get rid of cultural bondage by striking on what policy or method.

On the whole, we do not want to depend on a void. Nor do we agree to run after a mirage in the name of revolution. All our activities will be based on reason and intellect. Islamic revolution is in fact, a processor social change. In this regard, change of leadership is necessary in every level of the society and at the same time, there should be a position change in the mentality of the people. Want of the right leadership nation falls into misfortunes. An ordinary nation can not be conducted without the right leadership, let alone bringing about an Islamic revolution. Hence, we can address the shortfall in national leadership by developing leadership qualities of our workers on the basis of realistic plans of the association. In this connection we attach due importance to build the career of workers also.

We consider it as our moral duty to assist and support any greater efforts dedicated the Islamic movement. But we do that in accordance with the decisions of the association.

With the attraction of qualities, we are trying to create a positive atmosphere in our national life. When this initiative would attract a considerable number of students, we believe, it would emerge as a great force. And this collective force of character will act as the driving force of Islamic revolution.

Calling Upon You...

Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir is the name of a procession inviting people in the society to the path of Allah. We invite all, regardless of religion and race, to rise above all sorts of religions, ideologies and opinions and to try to get a clear picture of Islam. Let us also seek welfare here and salvation in hereafter We believe, one *who* comes out sincerely with the quest for truth, will find Islam as the only infallible and complete system of life.

Let us have a clear concept of life. Let us know ourselves and the Creator. Let us successfully traverse this transient testing ground of the earth and rush along the path of Allah for salvation. Let us re-arrange our own mind, mentality, thoughts and action in the light of divine rules.

Let us show light to the confused humanity. Let us call them to the eternal truth. Let us set free the oppressed people of the world from the claws of merciless oppressors and their domination. Let us take bright to the horizon of truth and beauty from out of the delusion of failed ideologies.

In hadith, Rasul(S) said:

“It has been related by Zarir Ibne Abdulla(R) that the Prophet(S) said, Allah will severely punish the race in which one is engaged in committing sins and the others, despite being able,

do not keep them away from doing so; the punishment will befall them even before their death”. Abu Daud.

Let us erect the royal arch of the Quran and Sunnah over the ashes of the so-called waning civilization. Let us proceed fast march towards building a new world in which men would not dominate other men, in which people would judge everything by the standard of *akhi rat* and would set Allah’s satisfaction as thier goal of life. May Allah help us all to keep His path. *Amin.*

Read the following to know more about Bangladesh Islami Chatra Shibir:

1. Welcome to the Way of Light
2. Muktir Paygum (Tidings of Salvation)
3. Chatra Sangbad (Student News)
4. Student Views
5. Strategy
6. Constitution
- 7.