

RU TEACHER'S MURDER

# Jamaat, Shibir create chaos on campus to save 'mastermind'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir are creating chaos at Rajshahi University every day to save RU unit Shibir President Mahbul Alam Salehi, a key suspect in Prof Taher Ahmed murder case, forcing deployment of a huge number of police to keep the peace. A host of Jamaat-Shibir leaders from Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna, Chapainawabganj and other areas accompanied by outsider cadres staged a sit-in in front of the administrative building suspending all

activities for five hours yesterday. Shibir leaders at a rally verbally abused and threatened the ruling BNP, police, journalists and RU administration apparently in a bid to put pressure on them to save Salehi. The leaders said they will not extend support to BNP in the next election if Salehi's name was not dropped from the confessional statements of three arrestees in the case. Classroom activities were hampered due to the use of many loudspeakers at the rally. Besides, Shibir

cadres stopped university transport until 2:00pm, forcing all staff to stay and hear the speeches. Central Shibir President Shafiqul Islam Masud said they do not find it necessary to abide by the law that harasses them. Addressing BNP top brass, he said, "Shibir doesn't give a damn about any ministers or lawmakers. We are contacting you for saving Salehi; it doesn't mean we are seeking mercy." Former Shibir president Selim

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## PM for law for safe buildings

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the Housing and Public Works Ministry to take immediate steps in framing appropriate law to ensure public safety in buildings and establishments.

"All buildings will have to have automatic and easy fire-extinguishing system as well as facilities for quick exit to safety in emergency situation," Khaleda Zia said.

Her instructions came in the wake of two tragic incidents of factory fire and building collapse in Chittagong and Dhaka.

"No more lapse of time. Realistic and effective steps will have to be taken regarding all risky, illegal and unfit-for-human-habitation buildings and establishments by identifying those," the prime minister

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PHOTO: STAR

A bird's eye view of Juba Dal's grand rally held at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, inset, waves to the audience.

## RMG workers call strike for March 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Workers Trade Union Centre (BGWTUC) will observe a dawn to dusk strike on March 2 protesting against the factory owners' failure to provide safety to workers and demanding removal of Motiur Rahman Nizami's from his post.

The BGWTUC organised a rally at Muktangan yesterday to protest against the recent "killings" in KTS

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## JUDGE CHUNNU HC extends no-work order for 4 weeks

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday extended for four weeks the injunction order on carrying out judicial functions by Rezaul Karim Khan Chunnu, a divisional special judge of Dhaka.

After hearing a petition filed by the writ petitioner to extend the period of the earlier order, a High Court (HC) division bench

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## Open-pit mining to hurt farming for 15yrs only

States Asia Energy study on Phulbari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed open-pit coalmine in Phulbari in Dinajpur will affect agricultural production for the first 15 years, but the situation will improve afterwards due to rehabilitation of land and introduction of better farming methods.

This was claimed by a new study

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## 2 cops hurt in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Two police constables were seriously injured in bomb attacks at Komorpur of Mujibnagar upazila in Meherpur district yesterday.

As Abdul Kuddus and Hasan Imam of Komorpur police camp were patrolling Komorpur Bazar at around 8:00pm, unidentified criminals hurled three bombs at them.

Hasan Imam's hand was blown off while Abdul Kuddus was also badly hit with bomb splinters.

They have been admitted to Meherpur General Hospital.

Rapid Action Battalion, police and Cobra have cordoned off the area. Meherpur Police Superintendent Awlad Hossain said, adding that they sent an alert message to the Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Force as the attackers may try to cross the Indian border which is only half kilometre from the spot.

## Cellphone firms collect customer details from today

STAR REPORT

All the mobile phone companies will follow a new regulation in selling fresh cellphone connections from today.

The new telecoms regulation made it mandatory for all customers to provide their personal details including photographs, fingerprints, and attested photo identifications.

All the cell operators have announced that they will follow the new regulation from today.

However, the schedule for fresh registration process of the existing mobile phone subscribers is yet to

be decided.

Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) asked all the mobile phone operators recently to complete their preparations for fresh registration of around 11 million subscribers and start the process by February 27.

The telecoms regulator held a series of meetings with top officials of cellphone companies, home ministry, and intelligence agencies since January 19 in an effort to chalk out a plan for completing the

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## Government's will enough to contain bigots

Ahmadiyya leaders tell US rights commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Commission on International Religious Freedom yesterday met leaders of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Bangladesh at the latter's Bakshibazar headquarters yesterday afternoon and expressed their concern about the grim situation of the community across the country.

Describing the incidents of attacks on their members especially since November 2003, the Ahmadiyya leaders told the US delegation that the government's will is enough to contain the religious fundamentalists.

"The administration has

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## PHILIPPINES CRISIS DEEPENS

# Marines come out against Arroyo

AFP, Manila

The crisis surrounding Philippine President Gloria Arroyo deepened yesterday as opposition figures rallied to a call for support from a Marine colonel linked to a coup plot against her.

Opposition figures quickly heeded Colonel Ariel Querubin's appeal and showed up outside the Marine headquarters two days after Arroyo declared a state of emergency to forestall what she called an imminent attempt to overthrow her.

Querubin told journalists inside

the Marine compound that he was protesting the resignation earlier in the day of the man in charge of the Philippines Marines, Major-General Renato Miranda.

Among the opposition figures seen outside the Marine camp were Arroyo's former vice president Teofisto Guingona and Congresswoman Imee Marcos, daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Inside the compound, former congressman Jose Virgilio Bautista, a prominent left-wing lawyer, was seen walking next to

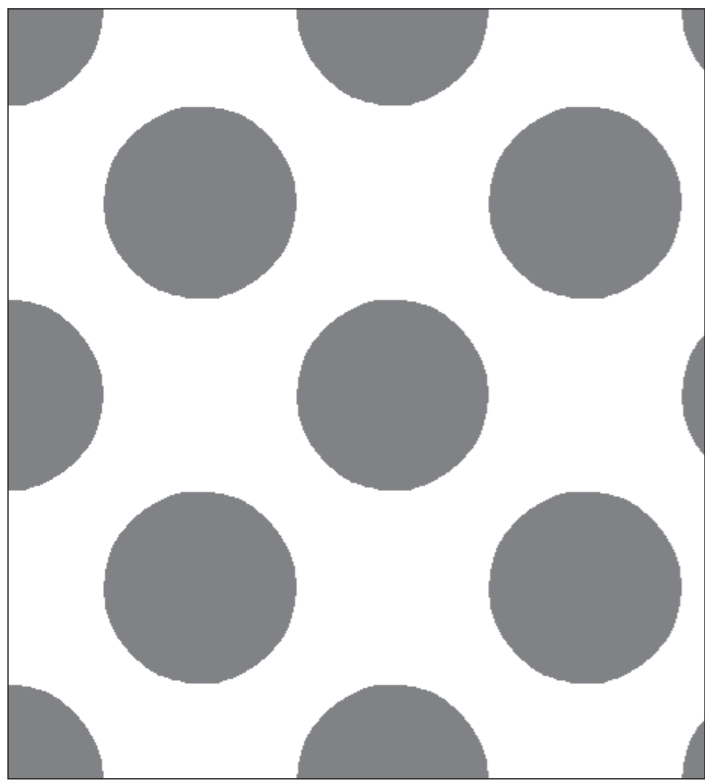
Querubin.

"I'll wait for all the people to protect us," Querubin told journalists, saying he feared "aggression" from unspecified forces.

"There are 400 Marine officers, and a majority support us," Querubin said.

Miranda had likely been forced out by the government because of a meeting on Friday during which the general dissuaded him from taking his men to join an opposition rally calling for Arroyo's resignation, he said.

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## Electricity crisis compounded

Baghabari plant trips, Haripur plant fails to resume production

UNB, Dhaka

The country experienced a 1,200 MW load-shedding yesterday as the 71 MW Baghabari power unit tripped and the 360 MW CDC Globeleq Haripur plant failed to resume its scheduled operation after maintenance.

Of the huge power-cut, Dhaka alone had to experience about 500 MW load-shedding, said the officials of the Power Development Board and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa).

According to sources at the Load Dispatch Centre, with the tripping of 71 MW unit yesterday, all

the three power generation units at the Baghabari station, including the 100 MW PDB unit and a 45 MW Westmont unit, are now closed.

PDB officials said the shutdown of Baghabari units would deepen the ongoing electricity crisis, particularly in the northern region.

Meanwhile, the production failure of 360 MW Globeleq Haripur plant in Narayanganj will further cripple the power supply system in the capital and adjoining areas.

The plant, shut down on February 17 for maintenance works, was scheduled to resume

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## Pirate killed in 'shootout' with police

UNB, Bhola

A pirate leader was killed in a 'shootout' between his accomplices and police at Boyarchar in Tajumuddin upazila early yesterday.

The deceased, Bachchu, 40, was the lynchpin of Bachchu Bahini. He was wanted in connection with a dozen cases including murder and

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Prayer Timing		
February 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

