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IF US CANCELS GSP

Mustafizur Rahman of CPD talks about its possible impact on economy

PAGE 15

PADATIK'S CULTURAL CONGRESS

The theatre group honours Language Movement veterans at Ramna Batamul

PAGE 10

2010 TALK SHOW

Pakistan accuses its envoy to the US of blasphemy



Thousands gather at Shahbagh on Amar Ekushey yesterday to take part in the grand rally and voice their demand for death penalty for all wall criminals and ban on Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CHARGE JAMAAT FORWAR CRIMES Prayers, no Act before March 26 propaganda CHARGE JAMAAT FOR WAR CRIMES

Youths spur govt; declare fresh programmes till Mar 7 to wind up nonstop 17-day stay-out at Shahbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issuing an ultimatum to the government to bring war crimes charges against Jamaat-e-Islami and initiate the legal process by March 26 to ban the party, the Shahbagh protesters yesterday announced a series of countrywide programmes beginning today.

The declaration came at a mammoth rally in the capital's Shahbagh in the evening. The rally wound up the nonstop sit-in that began at the intersection on February 5 demanding capital punishment to all the war criminals.

Late at night, Imran H Sarker, a key organiser of the movement, said, 'I announce the end of the rally. I request you to go home and we will see

25 MONDAY

you at 10:00am tomorrow [today].'

However, many people were still at the venue around midnight. As part of the countrywide programmes, special prayers will be held at mosques after Juma prayers as well as at churches, pagodas and temples today.

Organisers told The Daily Star although the protesters would not keep the Shahbagh intersection occupied for 24 hours from today, they will gather at the venue the day before the war crimes tribunal is to deliver a verdict. The aim of this gathering is to resist any possible violence by Jamaat-Shibir.

Yesterday, the 17th day of the protest which coincided with the Amar **SEE PAGE 19 COL 4**

Govt moves not to let any radical groups exploit religion

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government is ready to tackle any attempt by Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies to stir up religious sentiments against the Shahbagh youths after today's Juma

prayers. Meanwhile, the Shahbagh youths yesterday announced a programme to offer special prayers in mosques across the country after the Juma prayers today for the departed souls of all Liberation War martyrs and those killed by Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir since 1971.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

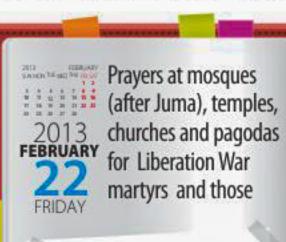
Gain, loss in 17 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The unprecedented Shahbagh movement calling for death penalty for war criminals has made significant progress but lost its two comrades along the way.

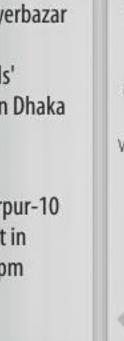
A recent amendment to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, allows the government to file appeals against inadequate punishment and also empowers the tribunals to put political parties on trial for links to crimes against humanity

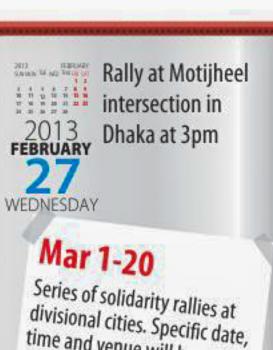
SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



Feb 22-Mar 7 Nationwide mass signature campaign in support of the 6-point demand of Shahbagh







time and venue will be

announced later







EVERY FRIDAY Demonstrations and cultural activities at every Gonojagoron Mancha around the country

DAY BEFORE ANY ICT VERDICT Gatherings at Projonmo Chattar to resist Jamaat-Shibir

violence

Form an independent probe financial institutions of war

Russel Mahumd

March 26

involved in the killing of blogger and

Press war crimes charges against

Jamaat-e-Islami and initiate legal

action to ban Jamaat-Shibir by

activist Ahmed Rajib Haidar and

Jafar Munshi, Bahadur Miah and

commission to bring to book all the

DO-LIST FOR GOVT Arrest within seven days those

@iminals Make war crimes tribunals permanent to expedite the war Crimes trial

Launch a drive by the law enforcers to root out Jamaat-Shibir dens, recover illegal weapons and arrest the terrorists of Jamaat-Shibir

Expose the "heinous" character of Jamaat-Shibir in national and international media and take

PM warns against maligning religions

demonstrators

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no one can make any spiteful comment, carry out any propaganda or attack on any religion in the country.

"Bangladesh will be a non-communal social system where the rights of all religions to be ensured...everyone will live here enjoying equal rights," she said.

Hasina was addressing the inauguration of a fourday programme marking the International Mother SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



SUNDAY

A miniature Shaheed Minar is placed on the Central Shaheed Minar altar among the flowers, wreaths and bouquets on **Amar Ekushey** February yesterday.

PHOTO:

RASHED SHUMON

Ekushey tone Nation pays tributes to

War trial sets

language heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barefooted they marched towards the Shaheed Minar with flowers like they had done on the same day in the years before. But this year there was something different. They were largely quiet but their banners reflected what was troubling their soul.

"Hang war criminals" was seen on a large number of

banners. Thousands, mourning the deaths of Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar and others slain in the fight for mother tongue in 1952, were moved by the spirit of Shahbagh, where a non-stop movement began on February 5

demanding capital punishment for all war criminals. Slogans such as "Pledge of Ekush: Hang the war criminals", "capital punishment for war criminals," "ban

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1