



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
PAGE 7



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

CHARGE JAMAAT FOR WAR CRIMES Act before March 26

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

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

Prayers, no propaganda

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.

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

<p>2013 FEBRUARY 22 FRIDAY Prayers at mosques (after Juma), temples, churches and pagodas for Liberation War martyrs and those</p>	<p>2013 FEBRUARY 23 SATURDAY Rally at Rayerbazar Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial in Dhaka at 3pm</p>	<p>2013 FEBRUARY 27 WEDNESDAY Rally at Motijheel intersection in Dhaka at 3pm</p>	<p>2013 MARCH 1 FRIDAY Protest songs at every Gonojagoron Mancha across the country at 3pm</p>	<p>2013 MARCH 5 TUESDAY Rally at Jatrabari intersection in Dhaka at 3pm</p>	<p>EVERY FRIDAY Demonstrations and cultural activities at every Gonojagoron Mancha around the country</p> <p>DAY BEFORE ANY ICT VERDICT Gatherings at Projonmo Chattar to resist Jamaat-Shibir violence</p>	<p>DO-LIST FOR GOVT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrest within seven days those involved in the killing of blogger and activist Ahmed Rajib Haidar and Jafar Munshi, Bahadur Miah and Russel Mahmud Press war crimes charges against Jamaat-e-Islami and initiate legal action to ban Jamaat-Shibir by March 26 Form an independent probe commission to bring to book all the financial institutions of war criminals 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
<p>Feb 22-Mar 7 Nationwide mass signature campaign in support of the 6-point demand of Shahbagh demonstrators</p>	<p>2013 FEBRUARY 25 MONDAY Rally at Mirpur-10 roundabout in Dhaka at 3pm</p>	<p>Mar 1-20 Series of solidarity rallies at divisional cities. Specific date, time and venue will be announced later</p>	<p>2013 MARCH 3 SUNDAY Rally at Bahadur Shah Park in Dhaka at 3pm</p>	<p>2013 MARCH 7 THURSDAY Grand rally and protest songs at Shikha Chironon of Suhrawardy Udyan at 3pm</p>		

PM warns against maligning religions

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 four-day programme marking the International Mother



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

War trial sets Ekushey tone

Nation pays tributes to 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