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ON THE RAMPAGE

Law enforcers look on as a scuffle breaks out after Jamaat-Shibir men attack media personnel in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital yesterday. The fanatics burn carpets at the national mosque and throw brick chips at police from the mosque premises. In the port city, they burned the Gonojagoron Mancha, set up to demand death penalty to war criminals, in front of Chittagong Press Club. They did the same in Bogra town, and in Sylhet city, they vandalised the Shaheed Minar, Gonojagoron Mancha and torched a police vehicle.

More on page 1,3.



Nationwide violence condemned
BNP sides with fanatics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Different political and socio-cultural organisations have lambasted yesterday's Jamaat-Shibir attacks on journalists and law enforcers in different parts of the country, including those in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital.

The main opposition BNP, however, censured police and armed cadres of ruling Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League for attacks on

CARETAKER DEMAND
BNP to set up nationwide 'Gonotantra Mancha'

UNB, Dhaka
Senior BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said his party will set up Gonotantra Mancha (democracy podium) across the country including the capital to mount pressure on the government to restore the caretaker government system.

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| PRAYER TIMING February 23 | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Asan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 5-20 5-55 |
| Zohr | 12-45 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 6-03 6-07 |
| Esha | 7-30 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Dhaka-Ctg six-lane expressway on cards

Communications ministry finalises proposal

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
The communications ministry has proposed to build a six-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Expressway under public-private partnership (PPP) initiative. The proposal for the expressway, to be operated on a build, own, operate and transfer (Boot) model, will be

placed at a meeting of the cabinet committee on economic affairs tomorrow. According to the proposal, if the expressway is built on an elevated level its cost will be \$6.1 billion, and if it is constructed at ground level, the cost will be \$2.2 billion. After completing the construction

work of the expressway, it will be operated exclusively on the basis of toll collection. The government has already started preparing a detail design of the expressway with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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Blasts kill 83 in Syria

AGENCIES
A spate of bombings across Damascus killed at least 83 people in the deadliest day for the capital since Syria's war erupted, a watchdog said yesterday. Thursday's biggest bombing, which both the regime and its opponents blamed on "terrorists", killed 61 people and left a trail of destruction in the city centre, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The attack, in Mazraa district, was carried out by a suicide bomber who detonated his explosives-laden car near the entrance of the Baath party's main offices,

said the Britain-based monitor. The blast wounded more than 200 people in a wide radius, including Nayef Hawatmeh, the head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which said he was hit by flying glass in his office 500 metres away. Russian news agencies reported the windows of Moscow's embassy were blown out, although no staff were hurt. Meanwhile, Russia yesterday accused the United States of applying double standards over Syria and blamed Washington for blocking a UN Security Council statement condemning the blast.

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Gigantic nests in Kalahari

DAILYMAIL ONLINE
There may be few trees in the desert to offer shelter from the baking sun but the sociable weaver bird doesn't let that stop it from building enormous nests to house hundreds of birds. The structures are built around telephone poles in the arid landscape of



Jamaat ban now matter of time

State minister tells BBC Sanglap
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said banning the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami was merely a matter of time and the government would take necessary steps in appropriate time. The government must fulfil the six-point demands made by the Shahbagh protesters, he said, adding that if there was any war criminal in the government, he would be put on trial as well. Qamrul Islam was speaking at the 15th episode of the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap at the BIAM Auditorium. The Shahbagh protesters on Thursday placed the six-point demands including issuing an ultimatum to the government to bring war crimes charges against Jamaat and initiate legal process by March 26 to ban the party.

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Cop killed

On duty at Shahbagh, body found in Motijheel
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A police constable put on duty at Shahbagh was found dead near AGB Colony at Motijheel in the capital in the early hours yesterday. His body was lying there hours after he had come for duty from 8:00pm on Thursday to 8:00am yesterday, police sources said. Constable Badal Mia, 25, was attached to computer section at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police headquarters. He hailed from Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur. Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel Police

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