

# Mahmudur sued

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Around 5,000 people have been accused in the 11 cases.

The accused include Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Hamidur Rahman Azad, Jamaat acting secretary general Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Secretary General Shafiqul Islam Masud, Office Secretary Aminul Islam, Islami Oikya Jot Chairman Abdul Latif Nezami, its Secretary General Mufti Faizullah, Khelaphat Majlish chief Mohammad Ishaq, Secretary Ahmatul Kader and Nezami Islam Party President Abdur Rakib.

On Friday, Jamaat-e-Islami and its sympathisers attacked law enforcers and journalists, burned the national flag and vandalised Shaheed Minars to counter the mass demand for capital punishment to 1971 war criminals.

They chose mosques as gathering points and launched attacks with homemade bombs, guns, and sticks, leaving at least 400 people dead and nearly 1,000 people including 14 journalists wounded.

Gonojagoron Manchans, from where demands were being made for capital punishment to war criminals, were the targets of vandalism in Chittagong, Feni, Chandpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Sirajganj, Joypurhat, Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Pabna.

Organisers of the demonstration at the capital's Shabbagh, where people from all walks of life have been gathering for the last 19 days to demand death penalty to war criminals, say that a smear campaign is on against them.

They said Amar Desh and a few other newspapers and TV channels have been

running stories demeaning Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) alleging that those were published on blogs and websites of the Shabbagh protest organisers.

They said those newspapers and TV channels were lying and spreading fictitious stories to get upper hand for the political parties they back and undermine people's support for the Shabbagh movement.

Nothing offensive was ever said about Islam and the Prophet (peace be upon him) at Shabbagh or on any of their blogs, the protest organisers said.

They also said alongside Jamaat-Shibir campaign against their movement, those media outlets were running series of reports to portray Shabbagh protesters as atheists, and spread rumours that anti-social activities were going on at the protest venue.

Earlier, the organisers of the movement had denounced Amar Desh and the other media outlets for supporting war criminals.

They blasted Amar Desh after the paper in its February 9 issue termed the Shabbagh movement "The sound of footsteps of fascism".

The Shabbagh demonstrators, after Friday's nationwide mayhem, demanded arrest of Mahmudur Rahman within 24 hours.

On expiry of the deadline, Imran H Sarker, convener of the Bloggers and Online Activists Network, yesterday warned of a tougher movement unless Mahmudur was arrested immediately.

**MAHMUDUR BRIEFS PRESS**  
At a press briefing at the

Amar Desh office, Mahmudur held the "fascist government" and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina responsible for the rise in militancy and vandalism.

The Shabbagh gathering was inciting terrorism and militancy, he claimed. He said he has been accused of instigating violence even though organisers of the Shabbagh movement had been provoking violence for the last 17 days.

Terming the Shabbagh movement "a so-called gathering of derailed youths", he claimed that a major section of the protest organisers had insulted Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Hinting at the youths at Shabbagh, Mahmudur said their vulgarity crossed limits.

He doubted the neutrality and freedom of most media outlets. A section of the media was trying to magnify the "insignificant" Shabbagh movement, he said.

Mahmudur condemned a few media outlets for supporting and fuelling the movement and said editors and journalists of most papers and TV channels were shameless.

On the February 9 Amar Desh report headlined "The sound of footsteps of fascism", he said, "What Amar Desh had reported 17 days ago has now been proved. The footsteps of fascism have intensified."

Criticising the role of courts, Mahmudur claimed that whenever anyone commented against any verdict, courts often issued sue moto rules. "Now the capital punishment is being sought but courts are doing nothing even though it is a sub-judice matter," he said.

# Hitler's food

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risked her life by sampling food prepared for Hitler at his Eastern front HQ dubbed the Wolf's Lair.

The now 95-year-old was picked up by the SS in 1942 after being evacuated from Berlin to the East Prussian village of Gross Partsch - in modern-day Poland - where she was set to work tasting fresh produce to be served up to the paranoid Nazi leader.

Woelk was one of 15 women forced to test Hitler's food before it passed his lips at the Rastenburg base.

As her fellow Germans were existing on rations, Woelk feasted on fresh fruit and vegetables, including asparagus, peppers and peas.

But the now elderly woman has revealed the fear she felt at sampling the leader's meals during the Second World War, saying: "We had no choice."

Woelk's mother-in-law had offered her a place to stay in the countryside when her husband Karl left to join the fighting and a bomb tore the roof from her Berlin apartment, leaving the secretary homeless.

But shortly after she arrived she was earmarked by the SS to perform the bizarre role alongside 14

other unwilling female food tasters.

Woelk told the Times: "Of course I was afraid. If it [the food] had been poisoned I would not be here today. We were forced to eat it, we had no choice."

Hitler would only deign to touch his food after all 15 women had sampled it and at least an hour had elapsed, she explained.

"Between 11 and 12 o'clock, we had to taste the food, and only after all 15 of us had tried it was it driven to the headquarters by the SS," Woelk said.

It was all vegetarian, the most delicious fresh things, from asparagus to peppers and peas, served with rice, and salads. It was all arranged on one plate, just as it was served to him."

Woelk, who was not required to taste meat or fish as the leader was a vegetarian, had to report every day, but was only used when Hitler's personal train was in the station. She said she had been rounded up by the SS because the Nazi leader wanted only 'good German stock' testing his food.

There was always an hour's delay before Hitler tucked into his meal so that any effects of the food on the women could be seen, she said.

# Terrorists

**FROM PAGE 1**  
second phase of the Liberation War, the pro-liberation media men are our friends."

"You are the successor to martyred journalist Sirajuddin Hossain. Your spirit is enkindled by Shahidullah Kaisar. The people are with you. Don't be scared," he told the media community.

Imran also urged the people to bring out mass processions across the country around 8:00am today to resist the hartal called by those who rampaged through the country on Friday burning and tearing national flags, destroying Shaheed Minars and beating up police.

In the capital, the procession will start from Projonmo Chattar and march through Matsya Bhaban, Jatiya Press club and Purana Paltan before returning to Shabbagh.

Yesterday, several thousand protesters at the rally took an oath to continue their movement until their six-point demand, including the capital punishment for war criminals and a ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics, is met.

They pledged to boycott all Jamaat-backed institutions including media outlets.

Chanting slogans made popular through the 17-day non-stop agitations at Shabbagh, people of all ages marched towards the venue from different parts of the city.

With flags tied around their heads like bandanas and flags drawn on their cheeks, they promised to protect the nation from Jamaat-Shibirelements.

Students from schools and colleges flocked to Rayerbazar, guided by their teachers.

"In independent Bangladesh, we have to get rid of the garbage like Jamaat-Shibir," said Jannatul Suraiya, a class-VIII student.

Anwara Begum, in her 80s, also joined the rally. "I want to chop to death Quader Mollah, the way he killed my husband right before my eyes in 1971," she said.

After a rendition of the National Anthem, sung by thousands in unison, student leaders from different organisations addressed the rally.

Bangladesh Chhatra League President HM Bodiuzzaman Shohag said Islam does not teach people to go to mosques with bombs and carry out acts of terrorism at the time of prayers.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union President SM Shuva said, "The violence of Jamaat-Shibir has created anger in the public mind. I would like to urge them (Jamaat-Shibir) to surrender

as they did in 1971."

Mehedi Hasan Tamal, general secretary of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, vowed to continue the movement with public support against fundamentalism and militancy.

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry General Secretary Tanvir Rusmat said Friday's violence has proved that they are playing the same evil role as in 1971.

Biplobi Chhatra Moitry General Secretary Hillol Roy urged the people not to be confused by any propaganda spread by Jamaat-Shibir regarding religious issues.

The next rally will take place in Mirpur at 3:00pm tomorrow.

People from all walks of life streamed into Shabbagh in hundreds in the morning and then in thousands after the Rayerbazar rally, even though only the mass signature campaign was supposed to take place there.

The intersection was blocked from all sides.

The signature campaign for pressing home the six-point demand was initiated on Friday and will continue till March 7. Many who came for event stayed back and started chanting slogans on their own.

Nasir Hassan, a student, said, "I came for the signature campaign. But I could not stop myself from chanting slogans."

From the media cell, leaflets containing the names of all organisations affiliated with the Jamaat-e-Islami were distributed among the people.

Kamrul Hasan, who just wanted to drop by to see the demonstration before leaving for Khulna, started chanting slogans.

Tahmina Khanam, a 75-year-old demonstrator, said, "I will not allow my near ones to be involved with these organisations. I came here for the signature campaign. But after signing the paper, I couldn't leave the place."

The intersection reverberated with slogans till midnight.

# Taiwan ex-president's prison term extended

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan's former president Chen Shui-bian, jailed for corruption in 2009, has had his prison term extended by 18 months to 20 years due to a further bribery conviction.

Chen, 62, was already serving an 18 1/2-year term for corruption and money-laundering convictions relating to his 2000-2008 presidency -- charges he says stem from a vendetta by the current Beijing-friendly government.

# Two killed in gunfight

**FROM PAGE 1**  
A Jamaat-backed eight-hour hartal killed two persons and injured 30 others, including 18 policemen.

Jamaat-e-Islami enforced the shutdown to protest the vandalism at its office in the town that took place hours after Jamaat men had vandalised the Gonojagoron Mancha and the Awami League office of the district.

The deceased in the gunfight were identified as Alal Hossain, 18, son of Shamsher Ali of Dhormogram village, and Sirajul Islam, 17, son of Abdul Kuddus of Monoharpur village of Pabna Sadar upazila.

Sirajul died on the spot while Alal succumbed to his injuries at Pabna General Hospital.

The clash erupted around 8:30am when police went to free the Dhaka-Pabna highway where Jamaat-Shibir fanatics had put up barricades at different points since 6:00am to enforce their hartal.

At one stage, the Jamaat-Shibir men opened fire at police leaving constable Mahtab injured and forcing the law enforcers to retaliate with bullets, said the SP, adding that police also had to use rubber bullets and teargas canisters to bring the situation under control.

However, the fight spread up to Bangabaria area and continued until 10:30am. Jashim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said bullet-injured constable Mahtab and activist Likhon, 20, had been rushed to Pabna General Hospital. Likhon had to be shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

The 17 other injured policemen had also been admitted to the district general hospital.

Police have arrested 15 activists of Jamaat and Shibir from different areas of the district. Two platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh have been deployed in the town from 4:00pm yesterday to contain the tension, confirmed the Pabna SP.

**BARISAL**  
At least 10 people, including one journalist, were injured when law enforcers prevented a procession of fanatics from entering the Ekatturer Mancha in the city.

Around noon, the extremists under the banner "Sarbastar Olamaey Keram O Touhidi Janata, Barisal" brought out a procession from Fazlul Huq Avenue which was heading towards the Ekatturer Mancha.

Intercepted by police, Rapid Action Battalion and other law enforcement agencies, the participants of the procession hurled brick bats at the law enforcers triggering a clash.

To calm the situation down police used bullets, rubber bullets, batons, sound grenades, smoke grenades and teargas canisters, said on-duty Administrative Magistrate Asadur Rahman.

Photojournalist Nuruzzaman of local daily Barisalar Ajjal received a rubber bullet.

The clash spread in Hemayetuddin Road, Chawk Bazar, Chamar Potty, Faalpoty, Padmaboti, Fazlul Huq Avenue, Kathpotti and Fakirbari areas of the city.

**TANGAIL**  
An unidentified man was burnt to death and eight others were injured when a group of people vandalised and set a computer training centre on fire in the town yesterday afternoon.

Four of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Locals said a procession brought out around 5:00pm protesting Friday's anarchy and vandalism across the country, suddenly entered into Cosmos Computer Training Centre on Victoria Road and put it on fire. The centre is run by Shawkat Hossain Imran, known to be a Jamaat adherent.

Firemen soon doused the blaze and recovered a body from inside the centre, told Hasibul Alam, additional superintendent of police in Tangail.

**DINAJPUR**  
Activists of 14-party ruling alliance yesterday afternoon vandalised three banks and two insurance companies run by Jamaat-e-Islami and its adherents.

Police lobbed two teargas canisters and fired three robber bullets to control the situation.

Quoting witnesses, police said leaders and activists of AL-led 14-party alliance led by lawmaker of Dinajpur-3 constituency Iqbalur Rahim had brought out a procession from the Awami League office at Basuniyapatti around 4:30pm. They were protesting Friday's country-wide anarchy by Jamaat and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir.

As the procession arrived at Lily More area, some miscreants hurled bad remarks at the procession which enraged the people in the procession. The procession instantly went on rampaging a branch of Islami

Bank in the area suspecting that the remarks might have been passed from there.

The mob also attacked the Fast Security Islami Bank and Fareast Life Insurance Company Ltd located at Charubabur More, and Al-Arafa Bank and Padma Life Insurance Company at Ganeshtola.

**KHULNA**  
Hundreds of people yesterday evening vandalised the office of Khulna Divisional Workers' Welfare Federation, a front organisation of Jamaat, and a Jamaat-backed library in Khalishpur area of the city.

The agitated people vandalised the sign board, furniture and collapsible gate of the office. They tried to set the office on fire but police obstructed them.

Earlier, Awami League-led 14-party alliance brought out a procession around 5:00pm protesting Friday's attacks by Jamaat-Shibir fanatics.

Officer-in-Charge Sukumar Biswas of Khalishpur Police Station said police brought the situation under control within a few minutes.

# Journos

**FROM PAGE 1**  
yesterday blamed the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir for the attacks and demanded immediate punishment of the perpetrators.

Newsmen in many districts including Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet, Rangpur, Munshiganj and Jhenidah held rallies and brought out processions in protest at the attacks on the on-duty journalists.

Shortly after the attacks, leaders of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists on Friday afternoon brought out a procession and demanded punishment to the attackers.

Meanwhile, during a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, another faction of the two unions yesterday announced a grand rally there on February 28.

The BFUJ faction led by Ruhul Amin Gazi and Shawkat Mahmud, however, blamed the police for firing shots on the journalists. It declared the home minister and the information minister persona non grata at the press club.

BFUJ President Ruhul Amin Gazi condemned the ultimatum issued by the Shabbagh protesters to arrest Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman within 24 hours.

He also criticised the protesters, saying they are working for the government, and threatened to counter their programmes if they do not stop.

# Talked strongly

**FROM PAGE 20**  
The protesters have also been receiving death threats from a number of facebook accounts and blogs.

Contacted yesterday, Inu said the government was working out what administrative and legal actions could be taken for such violation of the law.

"We have been going through the related laws and procedures over the last three days. We will make an announcement tomorrow (today)," he told The Daily Star by phone.

Asked what action would be taken against those who have already violated the law, he said, "We have contemplated three options -- cancellation of declaration of the media, confiscation of the already published copies and arrest of the people directly involved in law violation."

Jamaat-Shibir men reportedly engaged in cyber propaganda ahead of Friday's mass agitation and violent attacks. They also hacked some public and private websites, including that of Prime Minister Office's project -- access to information (a2i) and elec-

tronic (e) information centre -- and some daily newspapers.

According to the international crimes tribunal law, these are cyber offence and punishable up to 10 years of imprisonment.

But the government did not take any action against the people responsible for causing unrest across the country through such propaganda.

An organisation against cyber criminal activities, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) already blocked some individuals' facebook accounts and blogs spreading misinformation regarding the Shabbagh movement.

ICT Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said there was a provision for punishment for cyber crimes but the victims would have to file cases against the alleged people.

"We are simplifying the law so that people can use it."

Last year BTRC formed Bangladesh Computer Security Incident Response Team (BDCSIRT) to take necessary steps to identify websites that spread anti-state or anti-religious state-

ments.

But since Friday, the site of BDCSIRT has not been found.

An official of BTRC said anti-religious or anti-state propaganda through social sites or e-mails are punishable offence but there is no awareness programme. People do not have little awareness about cyber crime or hacking.

Jabed Morshed, an IT expert and teacher of Daffodil International University, said the government should launch awareness programme against cyber crimes immediately and should strengthen the government websites.

Otherwise, he said the sites might come under attack more often. It seemed the anti-liberation forces had engaged foreign hackers to hack government sites, Jabed said, adding on the other hand Jamaat-Shibir's sites were being hacked by local hackers.

The government should keep a backup of their data and monitor its websites frequently. A Pakistani and a Turkish group hacked government sites on the last two days, Jabed added.

# AL, allies urge people

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Avenue in the capital as part of the alliance's country-wide rallies protesting Friday's violence.

Accusing Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, of instigating the violence, State Minister for Law Kamrul Islam said Mahmudur and his newspaper through some reports incited the Jamaat-Shibir activists to unleash the mayhem.

He said the newspaper ran reports against blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider claiming that he [Rajib] had posted some anti-Islamic write-ups in several blogs in August-September last year.

Why the newspaper authorities ran the reports after Rajib's death if the posts were true, he questioned.

He demanded arrest of Mahmudur Rahman in connection with Friday's violence.

Citing the Ramu mayhem in Cox's Bazar, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said extremists at that time had launched a propaganda campaign on Facebook and destroyed pieces of Buddhist heritage.

And this time around, a similar conspiracy is afoot in the cyber world to cause mayhem again in the country, he added.

The minister urged people to reject today's hartal.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu said the government has taken a strong position against any anti-Islamic propaganda. It has blocked YouTube on allegations of hosting an anti-Islamic film.

As per the related rules, he said, an electronic or print media cannot run a report of "bad taste." But several media did it by violating journalistic ethics.

AL presidium member Mohammad Nasim said by

conducting the latest violence Jamaat has proved that it has not changed its 1971 character.

The youths at Shabbagh have raised the demand of mass people, he noted.

Later, a procession was brought out rejecting today's hartal and demanding punishment to persons involved in Friday's violence.

Thousands of youths started a non-stop demonstration in the capital's Shabbagh on February 5, hours after the International Crimes Tribunal-2 awarded life sentence to Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

On February 15, Rajib, an activist of the Shabbagh movement, was found dead on the road near his residence at Palash Nagar in the capital's Pallabi.