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Walton Central Zone beat BCB North to win Bangladesh Cricket League
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Cuban National Assembly re-elects President Raul for another five years
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Life of Pi, Argo, Lincoln and Les Miserables sweep Oscars
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Alert people to instigation

PM spurs MPs on Jamaat propaganda; insists govt won't ban any religion-based party; cabinet for empowering press council

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed ministers and lawmakers to alert their constituents to religious instigation by Jamaat-e-Islami.

She also asked them to explain to imams and other religious scholars how Jamaat had been running a smear campaign against the Shahbagh movement organisers with false allegation of insulting Islam.

The directives came at the cabinet meeting that also observed that Jamaat and its sympathisers instigated religious sentiments by publishing advertisements and reports with fictitious contents from blogs that hurt Muslims' religious faith, meeting sources said.

Such campaigns over the past few days sparked a country-wide violence on Friday, killing at least four people and wounding over 1,000 others, including 14 journalists.

Hasina directed her cabinet colleagues to remain alert to any possible instigation by Jamaat on next Friday in efforts to thwart people's demand for capital punishment to war criminals, a cabinet member told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

Sources say the government has intelligence that Jamaat, which actively opposed the country's Liberation War in 1971, might do something outrageous to hurt religious sentiments of the people.



The protesters of Shahbagh movement hold a rally at Mirpur-10 in the capital demanding capital punishment to all war criminals and ban on Jamaat-Shibir.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Feb 22-Mar 7
2013 FEBRUARY
26 TUESDAY
Nationwide mass signature campaign in support of the 6-point demand of Shahbagh

Rejoinder, our reply

The Jamaat-e-Islami Sunday sent a rejoinder, undersigned by Md Ibrahim of the party's Central Publicity Department, to protest our report on February 23. We are publishing the unedited version of the rejoinder along with our reply:

In your print edition dated 23rd February 2013 you published the report titled "Jamaat, allies strike terror" saying Jamaat carried out the protest on 22 February. The country

Islamist parties blame 'outsiders' for violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight Islamist parties now blame it on "intruders".

They claim those who tore and burned the national flag and vandalised Shaheed Minars during the protest against the "atheist" Shahbagh bloggers on Friday do not belong to their organisations.

Shah Ahmadullah Ashraf, ameer of Khelafat Andolon, yesterday told The Daily Star that Jamaat activists or personnel from government agencies might have intruded into the protest and unleashed a wave of terror across the country to "blame each other".

Mirpur roars with youths

Protesters reaffirm oath for maximum punishment to war criminals

STAR REPORT

Ignoring Jamaat-Shibir propaganda and threats, tens of thousands of people joined a grand rally in the capital's Mirpur yesterday to demand maximum punishment to war criminals.

Only a mile away from Alubdi village, where Jamaat leader Quader Mollah and his associates carried out mass killings in 1971, the Mirpur crowd was resolute in conviction that Bangladesh is not a place for war criminals and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Students in uniforms began to swarm the venue before the rally began at 3:30pm. A group of madrasa kids were

seen chanting slogans with Lucky Akhtar, the social welfare secretary of Bangladesh Students Union.

Criticising the government for not arresting Mahmudur Rahman yet, the Shahbagh activists addressing the gathering announced a decision to demonstrate outside the home ministry around 4:00pm today.

A memorandum would be submitted to the ministry demanding the government immediately detain Mahmudur, acting editor of daily Amar Desh. Earlier, two ultimatums were issued to the government for his arrest.

Imran H Sarker, convener of Blogger and Online Activist Network, firmly

rejected Mahmudur Rahman's allegation that the Shahbagh movement is run by atheists.

"Mahmudur Rahman is the atheist. He is the one spreading atheism and communalism through his newspaper," he added.

He urged the government not to hesitate to arrest Mahmudur Rahman and warned, "If you make compromises, the people will not accept it."

Imran, the spokesperson for Shahbagh movement, also called upon the people to boycott Amar Desh from today.

Condemning recent Jamaat-Shibir violence, he said, "The terrorists, who had

Over 4,000 sued for violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Over 4,000 activists of eight Islamist parties were sued in connection with Sunday's violence that killed four people and injured 50 in Manikganj.

The violence erupted when police, having been attacked by pickets, opened fire in Singair upazila of the district during countrywide hartal called by the Islamist parties.



Members of the armed forces and relatives of the BDR carnage victims offer fateha at the Banani Military Graveyard yesterday on the fourth anniversary of the incident that left 57 officers killed. Inset, a woman in tears remembers her brother killed in the carnage.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Speed up carnage trial

Families of BDR mutiny victims demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accompanied by her relatives, she went there to offer prayers for the salvation of the departed soul of her son, who died in the BDR mutiny four years ago.

Watching her in agony, many other relatives and colleagues of the 57 slain army

officers could not hold back their tears. A pal of gloom descended on the graveyard.

Relatives and colleagues offered prayers and placed floral wreaths at the graves. They demanded urgent completion of the trial in

ARSON ATTACK Trial of 46 opposition men resumes

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday resumed the trial of 46 opposition leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, after a six-month hiatus for their alleged involvement in an arson attack.

In response to a writ petition, the High Court on August 6 last year stayed proceedings of the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station in connection with torching of a bus near Prime Minister's

HC judge to face investigation

President orders formation of Supreme Judicial Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman yesterday ordered formation of a Supreme Judicial Council to investigate alleged misconduct of High Court judge Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan.

The law ministry sent the presidential order to the Supreme Court registrar for forwarding it to the chief justice.

Allegations of misconduct were raised against Justice Mizanur after he distributed copies of a February 17 newspaper report among the judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court.



Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan

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