Spirited protesters chanted

anti-Razakar slogans, demanding that Sayedee is handed down a death sentence.

It was the verdict of a life sentence given to Jamaat leader Quader Mollah that brought the youths to the streets. They demand nothing but the death sentence to war criminals for their atrocious crimes against humanity in 1971. As the country awaits another verdict today, all eyes are towards Shahbagh and the

"We want to tell the tribunal that since we began our movement on February 5, we did not exert any undue pressure on you. We have only asked that you continue your work in your own way, impartially," Imran told the Motijheel rally.

He urged the tribunal members not to be afraid of the anarchy and violence by Jamaat-Shibir.

"We strongly believe that nothing but a death sentence is punishment enough for the crimes committed in 1971," said Imran, "Please respect people's demand."

He also called upon people to resist today's hartal and continue their routine activities as they had done on the three previous shutdowns called by Jamaat and its allies.

Protesters will bring out an anti-hartal procession from Shahbagh at 10:00am

On February 21, the organisers wrapped up the nonstop protests and announced a series of countrywide programmes, including grand rallies at different points in and outside Dhaka. They also declared that protesters would return to the intersection 24 hours before a war crimes verdict.

Ever since the protest began, the otherwise busy Shahbagh throbbed with the spirit of resistance amid swelling public anger at the impunity the war criminals and Jamaat-Shibir enjoyed over the last 42 years.

Yesterday, people started to flock to the protest venue, Motijheel, long before the rally began at 3:00pm. Motijheel being a commercial area, many were seen to join the protest in office

dress. Hundreds of service holders left their offices to take to the streets and then cheered to the demands of the protesters.

Many shops, financial institutions and businesses shut themselves down at their peak hours in a rare gesture of solidarity.

"The shops and businesses were all closed in 1971. Why can't we close our businesses for a few hours today to show our support for the movement of the youths?" said a business-

leader Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's comment that the youths should be more loving, Imran said: "We have plenty of love. The youth of today has no shortage of love. But this love is for the people of this country, for the freedom fighters, for the martyrs of the Liberation

having love for the war criminals. We have nothing but hate for them. We condemn such comments."

political leaders who still had friendly relations with some war criminals.

Criticising a remark by Liberation War."

Jamaat-Shibir and called upon the owners of media outlets to reject advertisements of those companies.

Local MP Rashed Khan Menon, different political and cultural activists, among others, joined the

around 6:00pm, protesters brought out a procession and marched towards Shahbagh to reoccupy the Projonmo Chattar.

Several hundred protesters were chanting fiery slogans demanding death penalty to Sayedee and other war criminals early hours today.

Counsels for Alim

that day.

Monday.

FROM PAGE 20

Obaidul Hassan fined the defence Tk 2,000 after two conducting counsels, who used to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses, remained absent on three consecutive dates.

The court asked the defence to deposit the fine money through treasury receipt "under the respective head from his own pocket by March 4" and submit a compliance

Yesterday was fixed for recording crossexamination of Dilip Kumar Chakrabarty, 11th prosecution witness in the case against Alim. The prosecution, the witness, the accused and other defence counsels were present at the courtroom.

But, like the previous Kumar. two occasions, AEM Khalilur Rahman and Ahsanul Huq Hena, who usually cross-examine the prosecution witnesses, did not appear before the

Munshi Ahsan Kabir, another defence counsel, told the tribunal that Khalilur Rahman could not come due to "illness" and Ahsanul Huq for "personal difficulties" and sought

adjournment. On Monday, Ahsan charges of crimes against Kabir sought adjournment citing similar reasons and the tribunal adjourned the proceeding until yesterday.

Last Sunday was scheduled for recording the testimony of the 11th prosecution witness in the case, but the two defence counsels

The tribunal in its firstdid not show up as well. ever punishment had ear-Tarikul Islam, a junior lier fined another Jamaat member of the defence, leader Abdul Quader said the senior counsels Mollah Tk 5,000 for "obstructing" expeditious could not show up due to disposal of the case. "unavoidable situation"

vehicles in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Bogra and Chittagong last night, creating panic among peo-Responding to BNP They even attacked a bus carrying the footballers of Muktijoddha Sangsad's under-16 team on Satmasjid Road in the capital, leaving five players injured, said

"There is no question of

He also castigated the

BNP lawmaker Nilufar Chowdhury Moni on TV that not 30 lakh people were killed during the war, Imran said, "She [Nilufar] has distorted the history of our Liberation War. I want to request the government to make a law that would cancel the parliament membership of an MP who attempts to distort the history of the He also urged people to

boycott all institutions of

After the rally ended

ing two journalists and a policeman, were injured as Jamaat-Shibir men clashed with police and locals at Sheroil Colony in Rajshahi and sought adjournment. Eight Islamist parities had yesterday. The clash erupted around enforced a daylong Hartal

tion vehemently opposed

Dasgupta said the witness,

who is a schoolteacher, had

been in Dhaka for last 10

days and was present at the

could not be acceptable,

said Rana Dasgupta and

appealed to the tribunal to

close the cross-

examination of Dilip

said, "It appears that the

defence took adjournment

on several dates for no

valid ground" and "the

prayer for adjournment is

allowed subject to payment

the case proceeding until

March 10 and the cross-

examination of Dilip until

the tribunal framed 17

humanity against Alim

including genocide and

murder of Bangalee civil-

ians and burying people

alive. As many as 11 prosecu-

tion witnesses have so far

testified since August 6,

Earlier on June 11, 2012,

The tribunal adjourned

ofTk 2,000 as cost."

March 18.

The tribunal, in its order,

The defence's grounds

Prosecutor Rana

the defence plea.

5:30pm, when at least 100 Jamaat-Shibir activists The tribunal, however, brought out a procession recorded the witness' testiwith sticks and brickbats in mony but adjourned the support of the hartal and case proceedings until some locals tried to resist them, said Rajshahi When Ahsan Kabir yes-Metropolitan Police terday sought adjourn-Commissioner SM ment again, the prosecu-

Moniruzzaman. Many Awami League activists were among the

locals, witnesses said. The Jamaat-Shibir men and the locals chased each other and exchanged brick chips in great numbers. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Alamgir Hossain of the Detective Branch of the RMP was injured then.

The hartal supporters threw brick chips at journalists, wounding Prothom Alo photojournalist Shahidul Islam and My TV cameraperson Mohammad Mustahab and damaging

their cameras. The locals caught two Shibir members -- Tawkir, 20, and Liakat Ali, 20 -- and beat them up in droves. The two were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, said police and witnesses.

blasted four cocktails during the clash.

5:45pm and fired six teargas shells and 20 rubber bullets to disperse the pro-hartal activists.

Three of the activists, including Tawkir and Liakat, were arrested.

In Bhadra area of the city, Shibir activists yesterday hurled two homemade bombs on two police vehicles and damaged a truck after an activist of the Jamaat's student wing was

Jamaat announced the

dawn-to-dusk hartal yester-

day, minutes after the

International Crimes

Tribunal-1 announced

would deliver today the

verdict of the war crimes

case against Jamaat Nayeb-

Jamaat-Shibir men

Besides, Jamaat-Shibir

men torched two passenger

vehicles and a covered van

and vandalised several other

vehicles in different areas of

the capital, including Bangla

Motor, Mirpur-10 and on

BNP Joint Secretary General

Rizvi Ahmed said his party

was yet to decide whether it

However, sources in the

party said BNP would not

officially support Jamaat's

shutdown like the previous

ones this month, consider-

ing it could incur people's

At a press conference in

the morning, the leaders of

Iman O Desh Rokkhar

Andolan, an alliance of nine

Islamist parties, said they

would not back Jamaat if it

calls hartal over war crimes

activists of Awami League-

led 14-party alliance will be

on roads from the morning

special security measures

including deployment of a

huge number of police and

Rab personnel at different

strategic points across the

country, including the

Shahbagh demonstration

and the court areas in the

capital, said sources at

police headquarters, adding

that CCTV cameras had also

been installed at many

like FBCCI and BGMEA

strongly condemned today's

At least five people, includ-

Jamaat-enforced hartal.

Business communities

important points.

RAJSHAHI

Law enforces have taken

to resist today's hartal.

Meanwhile, leaders and

would back Jamaat's hartal.

Talking to The Daily Star,

Kuril Biswa Road.

torched and vandalised

Sayedee.

police.

wrath.

related issues.

around 12:30pm that it e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Station.

Station.

Officer-in-Charge Zamir Station

They damaged some

them.

Bazar, said witnesses.

of Sadar Police Station.

MKA claims

in the murder case.

the case.

also confirmed that none have been detained in con-

Sagar-Runi.

Rajib, an activist of Shahbagh movement, was found dead near his residence at Palash Nagar in the

"We have their movement Lines.

does not believe in the independence of Bangladesh and it has been working as the agent of foreign states, he mentioned adding, it is a moral obligation and legal responsibility of the government to resist the members

of veterinary science at Rajshahi University, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with several stab wounds.

Shibir men had claimed that those who attacked Tawhid were Jubo League activists.

CHAPAINAWABGANJ

Uddin of Shibganj Police

Shibganj Bazar area and suddenly attacked policemen with brick chips and

vehicles and torched the local Awami League office around 5:15pm, he added. Police fired at least 50

Pro-government men soon showed up and battled with Jamaat-Shibir men and vandalised an ATM booth of

intersection, said Golam Mortuza, officer-in-charge

Shaheed Satu Hall.

many persons in this connection, but found nobody at fault, added Mainul, also the investigation officer in

Some high officials of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) nection with the murder of

capital's Pallabi on February

The government is aware of the existence of some suicide squad members of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistani militant group, in

Police intervened around under observation, Muhiuddin told newsmen after inaugurating the repair work of the Detective Training School near the capital's Rajarbagh Police

have been applying new strategies, including hitand-run tactics on law enforcers, and vandalising and torching public vehicles, demanding the International Crimes Tribunal to be made void and release of its leaders facing war crimes charges at the tribunals.

stabbed in Binodpur. Tawhidul Islam, a student of the LeT.

Some locals had chased

and beat Tawhidul up at the Binodpur gate of the university around 9:00pm, said the OC of Motihar Police

Angered by the attack, Shibir men brought out a procession in Bhadra area and hurled the bombs. A police vehicle was damaged in the attack, said OC Ziaur Rahman of Boalia Police

Jamaat and Shibir members yesterday attacked law enforcers, injuring 14 policemen, including

Chapainawabganj. Sub-Inspector Nur-e-Alam of the police station said Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession in

rounds of bullet and 25 teargas canisters to disperse

Islami Bank at Shibganj Around 5:00pm, Jamaat-Shibir activists marched in procession from Boro Indira

Police intercepted them when the procession was approaching the Gonojagoron Mancha near

and engineers. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday evening, Mainul Islam, inspector of Detective Brach of police, said they were yet to make any arrest

Police have interrogated

At the meeting with the home minister, Peshajibi Shamannay Parishad demanded arrest of Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, banning the politics of Jamaat-Shibir and arresting the killers of journalist couple

Thousands of youths started a non-stop demonstration at the Shahbagh roundabout in the capital 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

LASHKAR-E-TAIBA

Jamaat-Shibir men Bangladesh, the home minister said yesterday.

The militant organisation



moved on to the divisional round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee contest.

All eyes on Sayedee prosecution sought capital FROM PAGE 1 the army to the spot. The

countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today assuming that "an unjust punishment would be awarded". Meanwhile, youths of the

unprecedented movement, demanding capital punishment to all war criminals, gathered at the Gonojagoron Mancha at Shahbagh yesterday evening to resist Jamaat and student body Islami Chhatra Shibir's possible violence and covert attacks. Shahbagh protesters said

they would continue their demonstration all night until the verdict is delivered.

They said they would celebrate and return home in elation after Sayedee had been awarded the death penalty. They would continue with their agitation if the verdict fell short of their expectations, they added.

Yesterday, Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir said, "The judgement has already been prepared. Let the matter be fixed for tomorrow [today] for the judgement.' A former lawmaker elected with Jamaat ticket,

Sayedee, 73, was facing 20

charges of crimes against

humanity including looting,

killing, arson, rape and

forcefully converting people into Muslims during the Liberation War. Nayeb-e-Ameer (vicepresident) Sayedee was

indicted on October 4, 2011. On December 6 last year, the court had said it kept the case awaiting verdict delivery. It decided to rehear the closing arguments following reconstitution of Tribunal-1 on December 13.

On January 29, the threemember Tribunal-1, led by Justice Kabir with members Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Anwarul Haque, put as a member of Peace Sayedee's case back on (Shanti) Committee awaiting verdict delivery informed the Pakistan army after conclusion of the closing arguments.

While wrapping up its Madhya Masimpur busarguments in the case, the stand in Pirojpur and took

activists of the eight Islamist

parties, which had organ-

ised Friday's demonstra-

tion, carried out attacks on

law enforcers and journal-

ists, especially that took

place in front of the capital's

On Friday, the agitators

burned the national flag and

vandalised Shaheed minars

at several places in the coun-

try to counter the mass

movement demanding

capital punishment to the

Jamaat and Shibir, which

had extended open support

to the Islamist parties' agita-

tion against the Shahbagh

electronic and print media

blamed Jamaat-Shibir for

attacking law enforcers and

acting in disguise under the

banner of the eight Islamist

of the BNP-led 18-party alli-

year, Jamaat-Shibir men

ance, refuted the allegation.

Jamaat, a key component

Since September last

Most of the mainstream

This drew huge flak for

war criminals of 1971.

movement.

Baitul Mokarram mosque.

punishment for Sayedee claiming that it had proved all but one of the charges brought against him. Defence counsels

claimed that the prosecu-

tion had failed to prove any of the charges brought against him. A total of 28 people, including the investigation officer, testified against Sayedee while the statements of 16 witnesses made before the investigation

evidence by the Tribunal-1. Seventeen people testified for Sayedee as defence witness.

officer were adopted as

CHARGES

One of the charges cites Sayedee's involvement in the killing of three Bangalee government officials in the then sub-division of Pirojpur and throwing their bodies in the Baleshwar

Foyzur Rahman Ahmed,

father of eminent writer

Humayun Ahmed and noted

educationalist-writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, was among the three. He was a police officer. The other two were deputy magistrate Saif Mizanur Rahman and sub-divisional

officer (in-charge) Abdur

During the Liberation War, Sayedee along with other armed Razakars kept Bipod Saha's daughter Vanu Saha confined to their home at Parerhat under Pirojpur Sadar Police Station and

regularly raped her there.

Being a member of collaborator force Razakar, Savedee exercised his power to convert 100-150 Hindus of Parerhat and other villages into Muslims and forced them to go to mosque to pray.

On May 4, 1971, Sayedee

about a secret gathering of a

group of people behind the

day claimed that Jamaat-

Shibir men had intruded

into their Friday's protest

across the country and were

involved in provocative

vision channel on Friday's

protest at the national

mosque shows a Jamaat

assistant secretary general

coming out of the mosque

with protestors immediately

identified him as Jamaat

Assistant Secretary General

Mujibur Rahman, who had

been arrested in January and

was out on bail. Law enforc-

ers arrested him again on

office, however, denied the

Secretary of Bangladesh

Khelafat Andolon Abu

Kasim Kasimi told The Daily

Star, "What can we do if

Jamaat-Shibir men intrude

in our movement and carry

out subversive activities to

of Islami Oikya Jote Abdul

Latif Nejami also echoed

Kasimi and added that a

large number of people took

part in the protest in front of

Newly-elected Chairman

realise their demand?"

A staff of Jamaat central

International Affairs

Well informed sources

after the Juma prayers.

Footage of a private tele-

activities.

Friday.

charges into cognisance on July 14, 2011. He was indicted on October 4, 2011. On November 20, 2011

The defence began pro-

ure to produce witnesses, the Tribunal-1 closed defence witness testimony recording.

between November 5, 2012, and December 6, 2012. The Tribunal-1 reheard the closing arguments

and January 29, 2012.

army killed 20 people. On that day, Sayedee along with his accomplices looted valuables of members of the Hindu community living in Masimpur Hindu Para. They also set the houses of Hindus ablaze and opened fire on the people who were fleeing the scene. At least 13 people were killed

THETRIAL

Sayedee was arrested on June 29, 2010 in a case filed in connection with hurting religious sentiment of Muslims. He was shown arrested in

the war crimes case later.

crimes probes, handed over its report on Sayedee to the

designated to deal with war

The investigation agency,

prosecution on May 31 2011, and the prosecution on July 11, 2011, submitted formal charges against Sayedee. The Tribunal-1 took the

the prosecution placed its opening statement and started to produce their witnesses on December 7

ducing their witness on September 2, 2012. Following repeated fail-

The defence and prosecution completed placing their closing arguments

between January 13, 2013,

Tajul Islam, a defence lawyer of Sayedee's case, told The Daily Star last evening that they were yet to decide whether they would show up for verdict delivery

today due to the hartal. Jamaat indeed involved

Baitul Mokarram and Although Jamaat has been saying that they were Jamaat-Shibir men were not with the recent movelikely to blend in with them. ment of eight Islamist par-Ahmadullah Ashraf ties', a number of leaders of ameer of Bangladesh the Islamist parties yester-Khelafat Andolon which is

leading the eight Islamic

parties, on Tuesday told this

correspondent that Jamaat

men might have been

involved in Friday's may-

hem across the country

including torching the national flag and vandalising Shaheed Minars. Apart from the three leaders, some other leaders of the eight Islamist parties wishing anonymity also spoke of Jamaat-Shibir the

same way. On Friday, Deputy Commissioner (Motijheel zone) Nazmul Alam of Dhaka Metropolitan Police told reporters that Jamaat-Shibir activists posing as general devotees had attacked police and committed other destructive activities around the national mosque.

Yesterday, he said that in primary investigation they had got the evidence that Jamaat-Shibir men had been there during Friday's violence in the capital. "We have arrested more

than 172 people in connection with Friday's anarchy in the city and according to our primary findings, some of the arrestees are linked with Jamaat-Shibir," he added.

Meanwhile, a new anti-Jamaat alliance of Islamist parties named as Iman O Desh Rokkhar Andolon has been formed. It will hold a rally in front of Baitul Mokarram Mosque on March 8. The alliance has already declared

not to support Jamaat's

Govt moves

FROM PAGE 1

hartal today.

Muhammad (SM).

Some ministers and leaders of Awami League's different associate bodies have also talked with the leaders of some religion-based parties to this effect, said party insiders. The talks began on Sunday, two days after the country-

wide violence instigated by, what police and intelligence agencies say, Jamaat and student body Islami Chhatra Shibir centring the alleged anti-Islam content in social networks. "The premier has talked to several clerics, top leaders of different religion-based parties and been able to make

them understand that the government is only trying the war criminals and its actions have no link with religion or the Shahbagh youths demanding capital punishment to war criminals," a senior minister told The Daily Star preferring not to be named. "The leaders of the religion-based parties gave their word to the prime minister that they would not take to the

streets with Jamaat unless or

until there is real attack on

Islam or Akidah," he said,

adding that they also told the

premier that they had no

plans to trigger violence on Friday over the anti-Islam contents in blogs. The leaders of the Islamist parities said intruders had created chaos and Jamaat gained politically from the violence. They said they would remain alert from now on before chalking out any programmes, the minister

added. Another top official at the Prime Minister's Office said the premier had also been talking with prominent Islamic scholars and urging them to unmask the conspiracies of Jamaat to people.

Meanwhile, Forest and Environment Minister Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Religion M Shajahan Mia, Jubo League Chairman Mohammad Omar Faroque Chowdhury and some other leaders of AL and its associated bodies are also talking to leaders of different Islamist parties.

The government has talked to leaders of Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Nezame Islam Bangladesh, Bangladesh Farayezi Andolon, Khelafate Islami, Jamiote Ulamaye Islam Bangladesh, Islami Oikya Jote's different factions, Tarigat Federation, and

Zaker Party, among others. "We are talking to leaders of different religion-based parties to understand their views under the present circumstance when a smear campaign to instigate religious tension is being carried out by Jamaat-e-Islami," said the

Jubo League chairman. "We will make people aware through different Islamic scholars that Jamaat only wants to use Islam for its own political benefit and that it does not go with Islam rather follows the ideology of Abul-Ala Maududi," he said hoping that soon there would be no religion-based party or

people with Jamaat. The Jubo League chairman cautioned that his organisation would resist any bid of Jamaat to create anarchy in

the country. AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star that the party leaders assigned to talk to the leaders of Islamist party were

carrying out their duties. SSC exam

FROM PAGE 20

rescheduled for March 8, said a handout of the education ministry. The exams will be held from 9:00am to 12:00pm, it added.

Exams on general science

and social science were sup-

posed to be held today. The remaining exams would be held as per routine. As many as 13,03,203 examinees from 27,073 education institutions across the country registered for this

ary level of madrasa) and SSC vocational exams that began on February 3. Meanwhile, all examina-

year's SSC, Dakhil (second-

tions under the National University (NU) scheduled for today have also been shifted to tomorrow at 8:30am due to the shutdown.