

## Citizens

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custody of Pakistani occupation army for nine months during the Liberation War and therefore, she believes in the statements of Pakistanis, not in the independence of Bangladesh, he noted.

He complained that BNP wants to erase the history of genocide committed by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators.

The freedom fighters in BNP will have to decide now whether they will take the responsibility for the war crimes, mentioned Shahriar.

Liberation war veteran Ferdousi Priyabhashini held Khaleda Zia responsible for the ongoing violence in the country as the opposition leader has "opposed the trial of war crimes suspects and instigated Jamaat-e-Islami for the disturbances."

"Khaleda Zia should be put on trial for making war crimes suspects Moitur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Muhammed a Mojaheed ministers; for allowing them to visit the Shaheed Minar during the tenure of her government; and also for opposing the ongoing war crimes trial," she mentioned.

She asked Khaleda to learn from the youths at Shahbagh how a movement can be run peacefully.

Famed educationalist and writer Muntassir Mamoon said Jamaat has been carrying out attacks on people and torching the houses, temples and pagodas of the Hindus and Buddhists as a continuation of its acts in 1971.

A government cannot tolerate such acts of violence, and its action against such rampages cannot be termed genocide, he noted.

Khaleda did not witness the genocide in 1971 and she does not know what it is. That is why she termed the government's action genocide, said Muntassir.

He observed that there is no difference between the BNP and Jamaat as both the parties have been trying to protect the war criminals.

Haroon Habib, a freedom fighter and acting secretary of Sector Commanders' Forum, said Khaleda Zia by making the statement has supported the terrorism unleashed across the country by Jamaat and student front Islami Chhatra Shibir since November last year.

By making such a statement, Khaleda has tried to cover up the criminal offences of Jamaat, he said, adding that the opposition leader is unfit for holding the top post of any responsible political party.

Sarwar Ali, trustee of Liberation War Museum, said Khaleda's comment proves that she does not know the definition of the word genocide.

The Jamaat activists have unleashed violence across the country over the last two days and the law enforcers have retaliated to maintain law and order, which cannot be termed genocide, he argued.

The BNP chief is giving more importance to the election issue than morality, observed Sarwar.

"It would be very much unfair if the killing of 35 or 40 persons is compared to the mass killing of 1971. In no way it is acceptable," noted economist MM Akash told BBC Bangla Service yesterday.

It was a hostile act in which policemen, Awami League and Jamaat activists and also common people had been killed, he said, adding that every killing should be investigated.

Front liner of Shahbagh movement Imran H Sarkar last night expressed disappointment over BNP's declaration of nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal for Tuesday.

Addressing the demonstrators at Shahbagh he said the hartal would go in favour of anti-liberation forces Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, and their nationwide violence including attacks on the minority community.

He urged BNP to withdraw its hartal and boycott Jamaat and Shibir.

## Spread of violence

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However, the government is not taking the calm for granted and has kept the law enforcers on high alert. Intelligence agencies say Jamaat may come out in its marauding mood again during its two-day hartal beginning tomorrow.

CITYSCENE

Except for demonstrating in a few districts, including Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Chittagong and Noakhali, Jamaat and seven other Islamist party men could not implement their scheduled programmes, police officials said.

Members of different law enforcement agencies with riot gear took position outside mosques hours before the Juma prayers. Many in plain clothes were inside the mosques.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion patrolled on armoured vehicles and water cannons in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. They searched suspected people at the entrance of many mosques in Dhaka, including Baitul Mukarram, the national mosque.

"We took all-out measures to thwart violence and ensure safety of the devotees," Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab intelligence wing, told The Daily Star in front of Baitul Mukarram after Juma prayers.

The ruling party men also turned in huge numbers in different mosques.

Jubo League Chairman Omar Faroque said, "Several thousand Jubo League leaders and workers offered Juma prayers at Baitul Mukarram after Juma prayers.

Following last Friday's reign of terror unleashed by Islamists party men, including Jamaat-Shibir, a sense of panic prevailed among the devotees. Many feared of a repeat of last Friday, when the Islamists party men targeted mostly journalists and law enforcers.

As part of its strategy to frustrate the religious fanatics, the AL high-ups asked its party men to join yesterday's prayers and help law enforcers to prevent violence if need be, AL sources said.

## Israel looting

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his resting place on a man-made hill close to Bethlehem.

The exhibition was made possible by the discovery in 2007 of what is assumed to be Herod's tomb at the hill fort of Herodium. An Israeli archaeologist, Ehud Netzer, found the burial chamber after a search that began 35 years earlier.

More than 250 artefacts excavated from the two sites, weighing 30 tonnes in total and including three elaborately decorated limestone sarcophagi and a bath carved from a single slab of stone, have been brought to the Israel Museum in 2000 and later triggered the Second Intifada.

The question of sovereignty of the Haram became one of the sticking points that led to the collapse of the Camp David talks between Israel and the Palestinians in 2000 and later triggered the Second Intifada.

PA officials have compared the Herod exhibition to the historical plunder of archaeological treasures by former colonial powers.

In one of the most notorious cases, Britain shipped a section of the Parthenon, known as the Elgin Marbles, from Athens to the British Museum in London in the 19th century. Greece has been lobbying unsuccessfully for the return of the Marbles for decades.

Nonetheless, the Israel Museum has sought to downplay concerns about the use of the antiquities.

The PA joined the United Nations science and cultural body UNESCO last year. Taha said his department was preparing to seek World Heritage status for several archaeological sites in Area C, including Herodium, as a way to "protect them from further Israeli misuse".

The Herod exhibition has captured the imagination of many Israelis, despite the king's Biblical reputation as a murderous villain and a lackey of the Roman empire. During his 33-year reign, which began in 37BC, Herod left a legacy of grandiose building projects, the ruins of which are today major tourist attractions.

Two have been particularly influential on Israel's national narrative: the Masada fortress complex, next to the Dead Sea, later became the reputed site of a famous last stand by Jewish rebels against the Roman empire; and part of Herod's massive expansion of the

## Veil ban overturned in Spain

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A Spanish court has overturned a city's ban on wearing face-covering Islamic veils in municipal buildings, saying it infringes religious liberties.

In 2010, Lleida, in the northeastern region of Catalonia, became the first Spanish town to impose such a ban. It was temporarily suspended by a regional court following an appeal by a Muslim association but then later upheld.

Spain's supreme court on Thursday accepted a second appeal and said the city was not entitled to order such a ban.

## BNP, Jamaat

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yesterday afternoon, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia claimed that the government in a planned way had attacked the houses of the minority communities to divert focus from the democratic movement.

Issuing a statement, Jamaat also claimed that the ruling party men had launched the attacks on the temples, pagodas and houses of Hindus and Buddhists to divert the Islamists' movement for trial of "atheist" bloggers.

The statement issued by Jamaat central committee member Hamidur Rahman Azad also denied Jamaat-Shibir's involvement in such attacks as reported by different media.

Meanwhile, Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday said it was crystal clear that Jamaat-Shibir men had attacked the temples and houses of the religious minorities.

He termed the claim by BNP and Jamaat a blatant lie.

"They have been resorting to lies since 1971 and this time they have shown their faces again," he said.

The AL leader said the anti-liberation forces wanted to take political benefit as they did in the past by attacking on the religious minorities.

At least 33 people were killed on Thursday as Jamaat-Shibir men went on the rampage across the country soon after the International Crimes Tribunal-1 awarded capital punishment to their leader Delwar Hossain Sayeede.

## 60-day ban

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anyone found violating the ban could face fines ranging from Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000, be jailed and have their fishing nets confiscated and destroyed.

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## 3 killed in fresh clash

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against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

A few district administrations yesterday imposed a ban on gatherings to avert untoward incidents.

Yesterday, Jamaat-Shibir activists blocked highways, threw brick chips at police, vandalised vehicles and roadside shops, and removed railway sleepers disrupting rail commutation with some districts.

Following Thursday's violence, police in several districts filed cases against large numbers of Jamaat-Shibir activists.

In the capital, at least 10 people were injured when Jamaat-Shibir men clashed with law enforcers at Malibagh.

Witnesses said around 300 activists brought out a procession in Malibagh Chowdhury Para area after Juma prayers and police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse them.

The Jamaat-Shibir men vandalised around 10 vehicles.

GAIBANDHA

Two people were killed in a clash between activists of ruling Awami League and Jamaat-Shibir men at Dhanesher Bazar in Sunderganj upazila.

The deceased were identified as Awami League adherent Nurunnabi Sapu, 22, and tea stall owner Saju Mia, 30.

Witnesses said the clash erupted around 7:00am when Shibir men chased ruling party activists. Jamaat-Shibir men caught Sapu and beat him to death.

Following his death, Awami League men vandalised Al-Hikma Madrasa and five Jamaat-owned business establishments.

Jamaat-Shibir activists in turn vandalised 25 shops at Dhanesher Bazar.

Saju was admitted to Sunderganj Upazila Health

Complex with injuries and died at 1:00pm.

Meanwhile, two police constables, who were injured in an attack by Jamaat-Shibir men at Sundarban police camp on Thursday, died yesterday at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The deceased were: Hazrat Ali, 40, of Rahamatpur Char village of Pirkachcha upazila and Tozammel Haque, 38, of Rajarhat upazila in Kurigram.

RAJSHAHI

In Rajshahi, two journalists were injured while covering a clash between Jamaat-Shibir and law enforcers at Binodpur in the city yesterday afternoon.

The clash ensured around 2:15pm when around 100 Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession and hurled homemade bombs at law enforcers. The law enforcers fired around 500 rubber bullets to disperse them.

SATKHIRA

Abdus Salam, 50, of Rajarbagh, Satkhira, was shot Thursday during a clash at Kadamta Bazar, and he died, police said. At least four people were killed during the violence on Thursday in the district.

OTHER PLACES

In Narsingdi, at least four policemen were injured when Jamaat-Shibir men threw brick chips on them from a procession brought out after Juma prayers.

In Dinajpur, Jamaat-Shibir men blocked Dinajpur-Dhaka highway and in Pabna they vandalised a Rab patrol car at Chandrapur.

In Narayanganj, at least five people, including a police constable, were injured in separate clashes between police and Jamaat-Shibir men when the latter tried to bring out processions yesterday.

In Jessore, 15 people were injured yesterday in Jamaat-Shibir assaults and homemade bomb attacks.

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