

# Pride held high

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February 22, the entire nation saw Jamaat-Shibir men desecrate it publicly "Atrocities by the 'hyenas' of Jamaat-Shibir (in the last few days) and the desecration of the national flag are unprecedented," said Imran H Sarker, spokesperson for the Ganajagaran Mancha, a movement for death penalty for all war criminals and a ban on Jamaat-Shibir.

"There is no place for war criminals in this Bangla," he said.

People from all walks of life, first in hundreds and then in thousands, joined the flag hoisting ceremony at Shahbagh intersection, now christened "Projonmo Chattar" where the demonstration has been on for the last 27 days.

As the tune of the national anthem filled the air, Imran on behalf of the protestors hoisted the national flag at 11:25am. It was as if the response of the protesters enraged by the recent insult to the national spirit by Jamaat-Shibir.

People also responded

to the call from Shahbagh on February 28 by raising the national flag in educational institutions, factories and homes across the country.

The protestors also called upon all to resist the three-day hartal starting from today the way they had done it previously. Anti-hartal slogans were chanted throughout the day at the venue.

Earlier the Jamaat-e-Islami called a two-day hartal from today in protest at what they claim is killing of party men in the last few days by law enforcers and activists of the ruling party. Its ally BNP too called a hartal for Tuesday "to protest the mass killing by the government and its corruption and misrule".

As per previously announced programme, demonstrations took place in front of many educational institutions across the country yesterday to engage more people in the movement and to press home the six-point demand made by Projonmo Chattar. Leaders of student bod-

ies associated with different political parties under the banner, "Gonojagoron Mancha, Dhaka University" brought out a procession from Madhur Canteen, protesting the ongoing violence by Shibir men.

Members of the "Bloggers and Online Activists Network" that had initiated the movement also joined the procession that ended in front of Raju Bhaskorjo at about 1:00pm after parading different key points of the university campus. Then a rally was held.

Addressing the protesters at DU, Imran highlighted DU students had always been on the forefront of all major movements in the history as in the 1952 language movement, '69 mass uprising and '71 Liberation War.

"If DU students come out on the streets in full force, it would not be too difficult for us to realise our six-point demand.

Samia Rahman, president of Chhatra Federation, DU unit, said, "Attempts have been made to destroy the communal

harmony in the country many times, but as a nation, we have fought communal forces and won in 1971.

"Even now, Jamaat-Shibir men are trying to split us through what we see the violence against the minority communities after the verdict [against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee in a war crimes case]," she said.

Rashed Shahriar, president of Shamajtantrik Chhatra Front, DU unit, said, "We hoisted the national flag today with the same spirit our predecessors had while raising it."

**HOISTING FLAG AT DU**  
Dhaka University celebrated forty-two years of hoisting the national flag on its campus yesterday with a vow to fight for ensuring trial of war criminals, bringing the pride of the national flag back and building a non-communal Bangladesh.

Expressing solidarity with the Shahbagh protesters, several hundred students gathered in front of the arts building where they took an oath to make a non-communal country

which will be free of war criminals.

Jayaddhani, a campus-based cultural group, organised the programme to commemorate the wartime turbulent days in 1971.

Former vice-president of Dhaka University Central Students Union ASM Abdur Rab raised the flag on the campus, followed by rendition of popular liberation songs like "Joy Bangla", "Teer hara Aei Dheuer Sagor" by members of the organisation.

Jayaddhani, also brought out a procession from the central Shaheed Minar, carrying a 100-foot-long flag. The procession ended at the base of Aparajaya Bangla.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SHAHBAGH**  
Following widespread violence carried out by activists of the main opposition BNP in collaboration with Jamaat in the capital, Imran made an announcement, addressing the gathering at Shahbagh.

"They have spread hatred and communal violence in post-independent Bangladesh.

They have brought about the darkness of the middle ages in our civilisation. We have to challenge and defeat this evil force."

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the Friday's press conference has further instigated such communal violence. She shamelessly gave support to anti-liberation force Jamaat and its "terrorist" student wing Chhatra Shibir. She has instigated these "hyenas" to carry out communal riots, Imran said.

This ill-strategy will remain as a dark chapter in history.

Gonojagoron Mancha wants to clearly state that Bangladesh would never accept these ill-attempts intended to spread communal riots, Imran said.

"We urge people of this country, irrespective of their religious views, to collectively resist and challenge these terrorist of Jamaat-Shibir."

He also urged people to participate in the rally at Bahadur Shah Park in the capital at 3:00pm today.

# BNP makes

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A number of district-level Jamaat leaders echoed his view. They, however, asked not to be named.

A senior BNP leader said, "The youths' demonstrations against Jamaat put BNP in an awkward position, and it could not take a clear stance on the demonstrations initiated by youths at Shahbagh."

BNP opted not to hold any agitation programmes with its key electoral ally Jamaat since the Shahbagh protest began on February 5 for death penalty for all war criminals.

"We will maintain distance from Jamaat for some more time for strategic reasons," Moudud Ahmed, a member of BNP national standing committee, told The Daily Star.

He said the BNP-led 18-party alliance will remain intact and they will hold joint programmes when the time comes.

Though BNP extended support to Jamaat's hartal on January 31, it remained silent when Jamaat called hartal for February 4 and 5 and 18. BNP didn't even hold the rally scheduled for February 9 under the banner of the 18-party alliance. The rally was eventually held on February 18 without Jamaat taking part.

Since then Jamaat has been staging violent demonstrations in the streets, engaging in clashes with law enforcers.

However, BNP changed its mind and decided to

take to the streets following Thursday's violence.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, some Jamaat leaders said they could not even imagine that the Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would term Thursday's violence genocide.

"We did not expect it. But Khaleda Zia termed the violence genocide and compared it to the genocide of 1971," a leader of Jamaat's Jessore district unit told The Daily Star.

Asked about BNP's refusal to extend support to Jamaat's 48-hour hartal, the leader said he believed it might take some time to bridge the gap between the two parties.

"BNP leaders and activists took to the streets and clashed with police and Awami League men. The government will strengthen the police force to suppress BNP, and that will certainly help a lot to bridge the gap between BNP and Jamaat," said a Jamaat leader, referring to BNP men's clashes with police in the capital and with AL men in Sirajganj yesterday.

General Mahbubur Rahman, a member of BNP national standing committee, told The Daily Star, "The way the government is committing atrocities, it will eventually unify the agitating parties."

"I don't know whether the government is doing it on purpose or without knowing its consequences."

# Mastermind Shibir man

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brother), and another alleged killer were absconding, he added.

According to primary interrogation, the decision to kill blogger Rajib was taken one and a half months ago, the detectives said.

Split in two groups, intelligence and execution, at least six including the five NSU students accomplished the killing on February 15, the detectives added.

The revelations came during a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday morning, three days into Home Minister MK Alamgir's claim that seven had been arrested in connection with the murder.

Although the five were present at the briefing, journalists were not allowed to talk with them.

**IDENTITIES**  
The detectives identified the five as Faisal bin Nayeem alias Dwip, 22, Maksudul Hassan Anik, 23, Ehsan Reza Rumman, 23, Naim Sikder Irad, 19, and Nafis Imtiaz, 22.

Dwip and Anik, who hail from Matuail and Keraniganj in Dhaka, are students of electrical and electronic engineering, while Rumman and Irad, who hail from Jhenidah and Brahmanbaria respectively, are students of electric and telecommunications.

Imtiaz, who hails from Sandwip in Chittagong, is a student of business administration.

Dwip passed the HSC examinations from College of Development Alternative, Anik did his O- and A-levels from Maple Leaf International School and Imtiaz from Sunshine Grammar School.

Rumman and Irad passed the HSC from Jhenidah and Brahmanbaria districts respectively.

All are from well-off families, the detectives said, adding, fathers of Anik, Rumman and Nafis are businessmen. Dwip's father works as an executive engineer at Chittagong LGED, while Irad's father lives in Dubai.

According to Detective Branch of police, the five came to know each other at the NSU prayer room and

became friends. They later started to meet and share their ideas through Internet.

The law enforcers have found posts related to Shibir on their Facebook pages, Nazrul Islam Mollah, deputy commissioner of DB (North), told The Daily Star.

"But we haven't yet found their direct political involvement."

**THE PLOT**  
The "Borobhai" gave the NSU students links of some blogs and asked them to collect information about the bloggers.

Analysing the posts, the group decided to kill Rajib, who used to write under the pseudonym of "Thaba Baba", Monirul Islam, the DMP joint commissioner, told the newsmen.

Once the decision was taken, an "intelligence group" was formed to collect detailed information about the blogger analysing his posts on blogs and Facebook, and track him down.

The "execution group" consisted of three members -- Dwip, Anik and Irad. **THE KILLING**  
After collecting all the necessary information about "Thaba Baba", the "intelligence group" started a mission to identify him physically on February 9, Monirul Islam said.

Within the next couple of days, the group identified Rajib through his friends.

On February 11, Rumman followed their target from Shahbagh Projonmo Chattar to Mirpur-10 intersection. "Rajib was in a bus and Rumman followed him by a bicycle," said the police official.

Rumman failed to find out Rajib's house that day. But the next day he succeeded to locate his place at Palashnagar. "The group later started to collect information from locals regarding his profession, lifestyle, relatives, etc to finalise their killing plan," said Monirul.

Anik and a couple of others went to Notun Bazar and bought machetes and knives. Anik paid the money, the arrestees said.

On the day of the killing, the group came to know

from Rajib's Facebook page that he would not go to Shahbagh that day and rushed hurriedly to Palashnagar by bicycles and bus, said Monirul.

They reached there around 4:00pm, carrying the machetes and knives in schoolbags.

The group started to play cricket in an alley near the blogger's house to monitor his return.

As the sun was going down, Rajib was seen returning home. When he neared the gate of his house, Dwip hit him with a machete in a bid to sever his head from the shoulder, but failed to succeed in doing so.

After two more hits, the victim fell on the wall and Dwip continued to chop him, said Monirul.

Anik joined Dwip this time and started to stab Rajib with a knife.

As Dwip continued stabbing Rajib indiscriminately, he accidentally hit Anik in his big toe.

When the killers were sure about Rajib's death they fled the scene.

**AFTER THE KILLING**  
The killers left a machete near a tea stall while hurriedly fleeing Palashnagar after accomplishing the mission, said the DMP official.

Hurt in his leg, Anik went to Kakrail and threw away his sneakers in front of Department of Films and Publications office there.

**ARREST**  
After several raids in Kakrail, Khilgaon, Baridhara, Bashundhara and Panthapath areas, detectives succeeded to arrest Anik.

Acting on information gleaned from him, they later netted the rest four from different parts in the capital.

According to Monirul Islam, police recovered Anik's sneakers from Kakrail and some more machetes in a sewage line beside Sher-e-Bangla Nagar School.

The law enforcers recovered total six machetes, a bicycle, a laptop, a bag and eight mobile phone sets from the possession of the arrestees, he added.

Producing the five before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday after the briefing, Mainul Islam, a DB inspector who is inves-

tigating the case, sought 10 days' remand.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tanvir Ahmed granted seven days for interrogation.

**ALMOST PROFESSIONAL**  
The group chalked out the plan and executed it like professional killers, Monirul Islam said.

"From his description of stabbing Rajib, you can visualise Dwip as a skilled carpenter chopping woods."

Sometimes before February 15, the group threw a ball inside Rajib's house on the pretext of playing cricket and had a view of the inner side, he added.

The group had earlier made an attempt to kill Rajib but did not find him in a suitable location, Monirul added.

"Three of them told us that they were not repentant for what they have done. They said it was their religious obligation to kill Rajib."

**NSU ACTION**  
"The authorities in a meeting yesterday suspended studentship of the five enrolled students who are held for the murder of blogger Rajib Haidar," Belal Hossain, public relations officer of NSU, told The Daily Star.

"The authorities have blocked their ID's, which is the first stage of cancelling studentship as per the office rule," he added.

He said, "A meeting will be held tomorrow to make a decision of cancelling their studentship from the university."

# Musharraf vows return to contest polls

AFP, Dubai

Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf said Friday he would return home within weeks to contest elections after nearly five years in self-imposed exile, but did not set a specific date.

"Under the advice of all my party men, we have decided that as soon as the interim government is in place, which we hope will be on March 16, within a week of that I will go back to Pakistan," he announced in Dubai.

# Terror web

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every district and also with video clips and news clips that suit their purpose.

A member in one post said, "I request all brothers in various divisional towns: shut all rail and road links between Dhaka and the district towns. Remove rail lines and dig deep and straight holes in roads. Shut down communication with all land ports and the Chittagong port. The hartal will be successful and the government will automatically fall."

In another post, another member shared the link of a piece on The Economist's blog Banyan about the war crimes trials and asked all followers of the page to post as many comments on the write-up as possible so that their opinion appears dominant.

A post contains statement of the Jamaat ameer in-charge Makbul Ahmad denying the party's attack on Hindu and other minority communities and accusing the ruling party of carrying out the attacks and arsons and then blaming those on Jamaat.

One follower posted a picture of condemned war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayedee superimposed on the moon saying that between late Friday night and early Saturday, people from Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia saw Sayedee's face on the moon and that it was an omen.

The Basherella page is a support page of Jamaat-Shibir's original news website basherkella.com. This page was opened on February 12, after or around the time Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission shut the original website along with about a dozen sites that were inciting religious sentiments against the Shahbagh movement that demands capital punishment to all war criminals.

The Facebook page says, "We have another page named basherkella. But unfortunately due to our honesty in sharing what is going on in Bangladesh, it has been taken off in Bangladesh. We are still accessible in other parts of the world."

# Pranab due today

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The visit is taking place at a time when both Bangladesh and India are consolidating their ties and trying to find breakthroughs in issues that have remained unresolved for decades, diplomatic sources said.

It coincides with a 60-hour nationwide hartal called by the Jamaat-e-Islami and its ally BNP in the 18-party opposition from early this morning. Massive violence broke out after a top leader of Jamaat, Delawar Hossain Sayedee, had been sentenced to death for his role in atrocities, including rape, killing, forceful conversion and persecution during the 1971 Liberation War. At least 43 people have been killed in the last three days in clashes between law enforcers and activists of Jamaat and its student body Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Ahead of the visit, Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai said Mukherjee's visit was not designed for political negotiations. During his stay, the Indian

president will convey to the Bangladesh leaderships his country's commitment to solving long-disputed issues and strengthening the bilateral relations.

"We have done a great deal of preparation for the visit. We feel it would be appropriate to carry on with the visit," Mathai said when he was told about the recent situation in Bangladesh.

Pranab Mukherjee will be the first Indian president to visit Bangladesh in nearly four decades as the neighbouring countries look forward to strengthening their ties. The last Indian president who visited Bangladesh was VV Giri in 1974.

President Mukherjee will have talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia. Besides, Speaker Abdul Hamid, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will call on the Indian president.

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English in Action (EIA) is a nine-year (2008-2017) UKaid funded skills development project aiming to develop communicative English language skills for 25 million people in Bangladesh. The project is implemented through a partnership between the UK Government and the Government of Bangladesh and managed by BMB Mott MacDonald.

To ensure effective implementation of the project activities we are expanding our team. Currently we have the following vacancies available:

**Head of Teacher Training and Support (1 position):** EIA is looking for a dynamic senior manager with extensive experience in Teacher Training Programme Management and institutional capacity building in the education sector.

**Core Trainer (5 positions):** EIA seeks to appoint Core Trainers (5 positions) to train and support teachers and teacher trainers across Bangladesh. Applicants with good teaching and teacher training experiences are encouraged to apply.

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Full job descriptions are available at the EIA website: [www.eiabd.com/career](http://www.eiabd.com/career). A cover letter and detailed CV need to be submitted by email at [career@eiabd.com](mailto:career@eiabd.com). The deadline for submissions is **March 15, 2013**.

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