



## FOR CHILDREN OF CONFLICT

The actress opens a school in Afghanistan and plans to fund more

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## THEN AND NOW

Syed Badrul Ahsan compares March 1971 with March 2013

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## IN LUNGI? NO ENTRY!

Rickshaw-pullers in the traditional outfit are not allowed in Baridhara

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The derailed coaches of Turna-Nishitha Express at Shrimantapur in Comilla yesterday. The Chittagong-bound train veered off the track as pro-hartal activists removed fishplates from track there to cut railway communication.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

# Train forced to derail

30 hurt; 17 Shibir men held; Jamaat bloggers forecast the incident in overnight post; Shibir calls hartal for today in Rajshahi, Rangpur

STAR REPORT

At least 30 passengers were injured as six compartments of a Chittagong-bound train from Dhaka derailed in Comilla after unidentified people removed several fishplates from the railway tracks, nearly an hour before the beginning of yesterday's hartal.

The daylong shutdown, enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance and Shibir, was marked by vandalising of vehicles, cocktail

blasts and arson attacks across the country.

More than 50 people were injured in clashes between pro-hartal activists, police and ruling party men in Dinajpur, Narayanganj and Joypurhat districts.

With yesterday's shutdown, the alliance has enforced hartals for 17 days since January 31 this year.

At Chirirbandar in Dinajpur, Jamaat-Shibir men in a show of sheer brutality thrashed the head of a policeman with bricks and injured 13

of his colleagues, witnesses and police said.

Critically injured Abdus Sabur, on-duty district intelligence officer of the Special Branch of police, was undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

A clash between cops and Jamaat-Shibir activists ensued following the attack. Three activists sustained rubber-bullet wounds in police firing.

Meanwhile, Shibir enforces a dawn-to-

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# Three bloggers arrested

Govt says law to be changed for punishing Islam offenders; Hefajat claims 'top culprits' not arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an overnight drive, law enforcers arrested three bloggers, including a Dhaka University student, from different areas of the capital yesterday for placing "derogatory comments about Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)" on the internet.

The move, which drew immediate flak from people across the board, came hard on the heels of a campaign by radical Islamist groups against the Shahbagh



Russel



Shuvo



Biplob

movement.

Radical Islamists have been threatening the country with an April 6 long march towards Dhaka and subsequent nonstop

shutdowns, demanding punishment to what they call atheist bloggers.

The arrestees are Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, 24, a master's student of Dhaka University, Russel Parvez, 36, a teacher at an English medium school, and Mashiur Rahman Biplob, 42, a blogger.

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# Bloggers baffled

Term govt action insult to democracy, see it as triumph of propaganda over truth, demand immediate release of 3 arrestees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The blogger community, Shahbagh activists and ordinary citizens yesterday strongly condemned the arrest of three bloggers on charges of defaming Islam.

Terming the arrests an infringement of freedom of speech and an insult to democracy, they demanded immediate release of the bloggers.

The government has targeted the

bloggers instead of taking action against the Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies, who are killing people, resorting to yellow journalism, spreading communal hatred and instigating violence, they added.

Imran H Sarker, the Gonojagoron Mancha spokesperson, said it saddened the nation that a government, which came to power pledging a "digital

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## SHIBIR TERROR ON Plainclothes cop savaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Jamaat-Shibir men, in a manifestation of continued brutality, again pounced on a policeman and thrashed his head with bricks in Chirirbandar of Dinajpur during the hartal hours yesterday.

A severely injured Abdus Sabur, a district intelligence officer of the special branch of police, was first taken to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and then transferred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) as his condition deteriorated.

A brain scan showed that Sabur had suffered a small haemorrhage and multiple fractures in the head, Asif Ferdous, indoor medical officer of RMCH, told The Daily Star.

"We will keep him under observation."

Around 1500 to 2,000 youths of the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir blocked the Dinajpur-Parbatipur road at Hajirmor in Chirirbandar around 11:00am, witnesses said. The Jamaat-Shibir men were armed with sticks and brick chips.

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PHOTO: STAR

Sub-inspector Abdus Sabur of the Special Branch of police bleeds on ground after Jamaat-Shibir activists smashed his head with bricks at Chirirbandar of Dinajpur yesterday. Inset, A motorcycle in flames on Dinajpur-Parbatipur road.



## Joint operation in a day or two

Home boss vows to hunt down attackers of cops, unruly Jamaat-Shibir men

M RAHMAN and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The government will launch a massive combing operation in a day or two to nab the Jamaat-Shibir men who attacked law enforcers and unleashed mayhem across the country recently.

"Police are fully ready to begin the operation. You will see action in a day or two," Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir told The Daily Star yesterday.

The move comes at a time when there is a sense of insecurity among people due to the apparent reluctance of law enforcers to take action against the Jamaat-Shibir men for brutal attacks on police.

"Without carrying out such a drive, it'll be tough to maintain law and order," said Mahbubul Alam Hanif, joint general secretary of the Awami League.

Apart from police, members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Ansar will also join the operation. The intensity of operation will vary from district to district based on the gravity of the Jamaat-Shibir violence.

At least 77 people, including eight policemen, have been killed and hundreds of people, among whom are 300 law enforcers, injured till date as the Jamaat-e-Islami

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# 18 more bodies recovered

Three survivors tell of pirate attacks on fishing trawlers in Bay of Bengal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen more corpses of the fishermen missing since March 25 were recovered from the Bay of Bengal yesterday, pushing the body count to 21.

Earlier on Monday, three bodies were recovered by locals.

Pirates are believed to have killed the fishermen. Mostly from Banskhali upazila of

Chittagong, 34 fishermen had been missing since they went fishing in the Bay a week back. Only three of them managed to get back ashore.

In a joint operation, navy and coastguard personnel found three bodies floating near the Kutubdia channel around 1:00pm yesterday and 15 about five nautical miles from the Kutubdia Lighthouse around 3:00pm, Lt Com SM Masudul

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## GHULAM AZAM'S DEFENCE Tribunal irked by absence of lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has set tomorrow for the defence of war crimes accused Ghulam Azam to complete closing arguments as their senior counsels were again absent from the proceedings.

Abdur Razzaq, chief of the defence of the war crimes accused belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami, was supposed to place

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# Hartal spanner in war crimes trial

All but SQ Chy's defence counsels duck proceedings, claim they lack confidence in police protection

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARI

Although the defence of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury came to the tribunal under police protection during a shutdown, counsels of war crimes accused Jamaat leaders trashed the idea and refrained from attending the proceedings during shutdowns apparently to delay the trial.

Both the international crimes tribunals

had repeatedly assured the senior counsels of the accused Jamaat leaders of providing necessary protection. But they had never appeared before the courts on hartal days citing "security grounds", leading the tribunals to adjourn the proceedings on several occasions subject to payment of costs by the defence.

The prosecution believe the

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