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### A CENTURY OF BOLLYWOOD

BBC's take on Hindi film industry's evolution as it turns 100

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### NOT PEACEFUL ANYMORE

Massive violence marks Hefajat's Dhaka blockade programme

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## Flushed out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers swung into action early today to flush out Hefajat-e Islam activists occupying Shapla Chattar in downtown Dhaka.

Rapid Action Battalion, police and paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh personnel commenced firing teargas shells and shots in the air around 2:30am to disperse the Hefajat activists from Motijheel, over 12 hours after they had held a rally there.

The Islamists retaliated with brick chips but around 3:00am they were forced to leave Shapla Chattar.

Around 2:00am, several hundred Rab personnel, backed by

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## Shibir the instigator

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Groups of youths dressed in jeans and shirts brought two dead bodies -- one at 6:00pm and the other at 8:00pm -- to the Shapla Chattar gathering. One man shouted at the rally that the deaths should be avenged. They also announced that the Shapla Chattar will be renamed Zubaer Chattar after one of the deceased.

People at the rally became agitated with the arrival of the dead while the carriers of the corpses urged leaders there to declare "Jihad" against the government and to fight unto death.

Similarly dressed young men were seen at every place in the

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# HEFAJAT STRIKES HORROR

Offices, shops burnt, looted in downtown Dhaka; 3 dead; over 200 hurt



STAR REPORT

Bangladesh has seldom experienced brute violence of this scale. Several parts in downtown Dhaka now resemble a burned-out and looted zone.

Thousands of radical Hefajat-e Islam men, instigated and bolstered by Jamaat-Shibir activists, exploded into an awe-striking force and set fire to hundreds of shops and police outposts as the evening fell.

Dhaka's night skyline turned orange, as flames leaped from burning establishments after power supply was cut off. The Hefajat men forced into a parking lot at

Dilkusha and torched at least 50 government buses yesterday.

As police and Hefajat men fought on the streets -- from Paltan to Bangabandhu Avenue, and from Motijheel to Bailey Road - at least three people were killed in the violence.

Hefajat and Jamaat men pelted law enforcers with brickbats and set off bombs, while police rained thousands of teargas shells and rubber bullets on the marauding Islamists.

A few thousand shops, including jewellery, electronics and furniture outlets, were looted in Paltan, Baitul Mukarram and stadium markets.

Hefajat had earlier promised to hold a non-violent rally at Shapla Chattar to protest what it called anti-religion write-ups by "atheist bloggers" and press home its 13-point charter of demands, including introduction of a blasphemy law.

But it eventually turned nasty after police tried to block a procession of Shibir men at Nayapaltan around 11:30am.

The clash there soon spread to Bangabandhu Avenue, as Shibir and Hefajat men tried to attack the Awami League office there around 1:30pm.

Violence broke out in the Paltan area, and the office of the deputy commissioner

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People showing half burnt Islamic books at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital yesterday evening.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## Islamic book shops burnt

RAFIUL ISLAM

Hefajat-e Islam activists, teamed up with Jamaat-Shibir men, set ablaze dozens of shops selling Islamic books -- among many other makeshift stalls -- on footpaths around Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday evening.

"They are enemies of Allah! They are enemies of the Prophet! How can they set the Holy Qur'an on fire?" cried a bookshop owner trying to douse the blaze after the attackers left the scene.

The attackers set fire to everything they could by the roadside between Purana Paltan intersection and Dainik Bangla intersection. They put up concrete obstructions to bar the law enforcers from

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

For 12 days, Khodeja has been waiting at Adhar Chandra High School playground in Savar for the body of her son Arifur, a victim of the Rana Plaza disaster.

## BODY RECOVERED 71 DEATH TOLL 629 No one knows how many were trapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve days into the biggest industrial disaster in the country's history, claiming at least 629 lives, there have been no moves to determine the actual number of people who were trapped inside Rana Plaza.

Although the BGMEA has been claiming that 3,122 workers were employed in the five factories at the

nine-storey building in Savar, the trade body yesterday admitted to The Daily Star that the list was not an updated one.

Already the number of people rescued dead and alive has reached 3,066 (2,437 were rescued alive), with many more bodies still believed to be buried under the rubble.

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## Last minute call changes it all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat chief Shah Ahmed Shafi walked on to a red sports utility vehicle from Lalbagh madrasa to join the rally at Motijheel in the afternoon. But then a call came on his cellphone from an opposition leader.

After the call, Shafi went back to Lalbagh, government sources told The Daily Star.

The call was to make sure the bigots had their programme linger to merge with opposition leader Khaleda Zia's 48-hour ultimatum to the government, the sources added.

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## An eerie Dhaka night

STAR REPORT

All the way from Dainik Bangla point to Baitul Mukarram Mosque, it was an unreal scene.

The road could hardly be recognised. Heaps of debris were burning. Iron road dividers and concrete slabs were blocking the road. An acrid smell

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## Opposition plans non-stop siege

14-party rally today; transport strike over worker's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP standing committee last night decided in principle to impose indefinite rail and road blockades from tomorrow morning if the government does not give in to the opposition's 48-hour ultimatum.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, at a rally of the 18-party alliance on Saturday afternoon, issued the ultimatum to

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## AL rejects Khaleda's ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday outright rejected opposition leader Khaleda Zia's 48-hour ultimatum to meet the demand for restoring the non-party caretaker government system.

It again urged Khaleda to respond to the prime minister's call for talks to reach a consensus on holding the next polls.

Speaking at a press briefing at the AL chief's political office in Dhanmondi, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam said, "The Awami League never accepted

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An office building at Purana Paltan in the capital burns, as Hefajat-e Islam men, joined by Jamaat-e-Islami activists, go on the rampage last night.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN