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The rescuer of Savar tragedy is to be buried today with state honour PAGE 2

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Your Right to Know

HEFAJAT HOSTILE

The radical Islamist group continues to be unruly

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27 more killed

Hefajat runs amok in N'ganj, Ctg; 4 law enforcers among dead; overnight death toll 13

STAR REPORT

At least 27 people, including three lawmen, died in clashes between law enforcers and Hefajat activists who struck terror in Narayanganj, Hathazari and Bagerhat yesterday, hours after Hefajat men were flushed out of the capital's Motijheel.

Twenty of the victims, including two policemen and a BGB soldier, were killed in Narayanganj, six at Hathazari in Chittagong and one in Bagerhat during the running battles that also left more that 200 people injured, relatives and hospital sources said.

One of the Hathazari victims is an army sergeant who had been on leave and had been visiting his village home in the area's Alimpur.

Earlier on Sunday, and in the wee hours yesterday, 13 other people, including a police sub-inspector, were killed in clashes between Hefajat, police and Awami League activists and in a raid to drive away the Islamist group's men from Shapla Chattar.

Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, however, told reporters at his secretariat office yesterday afternoon that in all nine people, including three law enforcers, died in the clashes over the last two days in the capital.

To avoid further violence, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police imposed a ban on all rallies and processions in the city till midnight yesterday. SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Law enforcers trying to remove Hefajat-e Islam men blocking Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Signboard area in Narayanganj yesterday morning. *Inset*, Hefajat men attack a policeman while his colleagues try to retreat.

PHOTO: **FOCUS BANGLA**

Rumours ran wild in the capital yesterday over the casualty figures centring around the Hefajat-e Islam rally in Motijheel and its aftermath.

At least 13 people, including a policeman, died during the Hefajat mayhem in Motijheel until they were driven away from Shapla Chattar by law enforcers early yesterday.

However, how many died in the law enforcers' operation early yesterday was the talk of the town. Since daybreak, rumours of hundreds to 2,500 people getting killed at the hands of the law enforcers spread like wildfire in the capi-

Hefajat-e Islam in a press release yesterday claimed that 2,000 of its leaders and activists had been killed and 2,500 have out-lived their permitted others had been injured during the joint time and now occupying the road operation carried out by members of illegally. We will arrest them if

took place

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Before the law enforcers kicked off a

joint operation at 2:37am yesterday, Additional Police Commissioner Maruf Hasan welcomed several hundred members of Rapid Action Battalion and police standing in queues opposite to Janata Bank Bhaban road at Motijheel.

"We will disperse them as they SEE PAGE 19 COL 1 necessary. But we will not open fire



win Inshallah," Maruf said in his brief speech to the members of police and Rab.

The operation boss was also heard telling his fellow colleagues: "We will not use that many bullets ... we will use only shotguns and teargas, but no exaggerated usage

of shotguns." A gas grenade was thrown first at around 2:50am near the Hefajat activists' makeshift knee-high wall

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Puzzling claims How flush-out Hefajat chief sent back to Ctg

Secy general arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained Hefajat-e Islam Secretary General Junaid Babunagari at the capital's Lalbagh last night, just 45 minutes after its Ameer Shah Ahmad Shafi left Dhaka for Chittagong.

Harun-ur Rashid, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the law enforcers picked up Junaid near the

Dhakeshwari Temple around 8:00pm. The Hefajat leader will be grilled in

connection with the recent killings of

Junaid Babunagari

damage. He left Dhaka at 7:15pm by a flight of Regent Airways. But the key question remained unanswered: Why he did not turn up at the Shapla Chattar rally on

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policemen and violence by his

Shafi arrived in Chittagong

around 8:00pm to avoid arrest

after thousands of his follow-

ers resorted to brute violence

in downtown Dhaka on

Sunday, causing widespread

Meanwhile, Hefajat chief

party men, he added.

Diganta, Islamic TV off air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government early yesterday halted the broadcast of private channels Diganta TV and Islamic TV on allegations of airing provocative programmes to whip up

public sentiment. The two channels were taken off the air around 4:30am.

Mahbubul Alam, executive director of Diganta Television, said, "A joint team of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, and the Detective Branch

18-party to call Getting tough 2-day hartal with Hefajat

Terms action against Hefajat genocide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance yesterday decided to call a two-day hartal from tomorrow morning protesting the killings during and after Hefajat-e Islam's Dhaka siege programme on Sunday.

However, there will be a 12-hour break in the hartal from 6:00pm tomorrow to 6:00am on Thursday with the shutdown ending in the evening that day.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of chiefs of the 18 parties with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair.

At a press conference later the BNP chief's Gulshan office, Vice-Chairman of the party Sadeque Hossain Khoka said they will announce the meeting's decision SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Govt moves to take firm line

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Following the massive violence unleashed by the Hefajate Islam in the capital on Sunday, the government has decided not to allow the Islamist outfit to hold any "political" programme anywhere in the country.

It also decided not to permit any political party to stage rallies or processions at Shapla Chattar ever again as the headquarters of major banks and financial institutions, including the Bangladesh Bank, are located there, highly placed sources in the cabinet told The Daily Star yester-

At the weekly cabinet meeting, some ministers observed that the law enforcers should carry out joint operations at all dens of Hefajat across the country to prevent the Islamist organisation from creating any fur

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3



Police escort Hefajat-e Islam chief Allama Shafi from Lalbagh madrasa in the capital to the airport yesterday afternoon. He took a flight to Chittagong.

BODY RECOVERED YESTERDAY 46 DEATH TOLL 679

US, UK deplore violence

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

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Different foreign missions in Bangladesh yesterday deplored the violence by Islamist groups, expressed shock over the loss of lives and property, and urged all political parties to restrain from violence and resolve problems through peaceful methods.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena said violence is not acceptable in Bangladesh because it is a democratic country and democratic processes do not allow any violence.

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A number of copies of the holy Quran were burnt when the stalls and pushcarts of hawkers were set ablaze during the violence at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque Sunday afternoon.

ISLAMIC BOOKS BURNT

People pour in to witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of people gathered near the south gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday to see the trail of Sunday's devastation left by Hefajat-e Islam men. They saw many burnt pages with Arabic words on them.

They were very careful not to step on those pages that were once part of the Holy Qur'an, the sacred text of the Muslims.

Inside the south gate, bookseller SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

More bodies lie under rubble AKRAM HOSEN The death toll soared to 679 yesterday. Rescuers still expect more bodies from the rubble of Rana Plaza at Savar as many have remained missing since the country's deadliest industrial disaster on April 24.

At least 46 bodies were recovered

buried in the debris since the

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters Association (BGMEA)

has not yet published a comprehen-

sive list of the workers who used to yesterday. The army team that has been leading the rescue operation is work at five garment factories in the clueless about how many are now nine-storey building.

The trade body had declared that it would pay salaries to the workers today but yesterday its leaders said they were skeptical about making it

as the list had not been done yet. Talking to The Daily Star, BGMEA Joint Secretary (labour) Rafiqul Islam said he had the March salary sheets of the five factories. But he refused to disclose the number of the garment

employees until that month. Instead, he insisted repeatedly that many might have joined or quit the job in April.

"We are not sure if we will be able to pay off the salaries as we are still

working on the list." The owners of the building and the garment units forced several SEE PAGE 19 COL 7