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Launching a new book, Amartya Sen says Indian politics needs "fundamental change"
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Jamaat terror continues

4 killed during hartal; shutdown called again for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-Shibir activists continued to be on the rampage and clashed with law enforcers in different parts of the country yesterday, the second day of hartal in protest at the verdict in the war crimes trial of ex-Jamaat-e-Islami chief Ghulam Azam.

The violence left three persons and a child dead and scores of others, including 10 policemen, wounded in the districts of Satkhira, Dinajpur and Gazipur yesterday. The death toll rose to nine in two days.

In contrast, the hartal called by the youths of Shahbagh and 10 left-leaning student organisations passed peacefully.

They observed the shutdown yesterday demanding the death penalty for Ghulam Azam, who was sentenced by International Crimes Tribunal-1 on Monday to 90 years in prison for masterminding genocide and other crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The Jamaat has also called for another daylong shutdown today and threatened to extend it to 24 hours, if the party's secretary general, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, is convicted of wartime offences by the tribunal which is set to deliver the verdict this morning.

The country virtually has fallen into a hartal trap with five continuous shutdowns beginning from Sunday. There will be no working day until next Sunday if the Jamaat enforces hartal tomorrow.

Already suffering from the heat of political unrest, the economy is facing another spell of damage when the country is trying to get rid of a stigma by holding trials of those who actively opposed the birth of

VIOLENCE MARKS JAMAAT HARTAL - PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Jamaat-Shibir HARTAL

JANUARY - JULY
Countrywide:
17 days
Districts:
37 days
89 KILLED
46 Jamaat-Shibir men
33 Common people, other party activists
10 Policemen



Shibir activists beat up a policeman with his own weapon at Fatullah of Narayanganj yesterday

- Arson at Kansat power substation
- Attacks on cops, Hindu communities, temples
- Acts of sacrilege against nat'l flag, Shaheed Minar
- Business, tourism hit hard
- Examinees suffered most

SOURCES: THE DAILY STAR REPORTS AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Mojaheed's turn today

War crimes tribunal to decalre verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 is set to deliver today the verdict in the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

The alleged chief of infamous Al-Badr force is facing seven charges, including that of murder, genocide and conspiracy to kill intellectuals, during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Forty-one days after the completion of the case proceedings, Tribunal-2 Chairman Justice Obaidul Hassan yesterday

announced the verdict date in the courtroom.

On June 5, the court had shelved the case for delivering verdict.

During their closing arguments, the prosecution sought capital punishment for Mojaheed claiming that they had been able to prove all the charges against him while the defence claimed otherwise.

If convicted, Mojaheed may have to walk to the gallows.

Yesterday, he was shifted from Narayanganj prison to Dhaka Central Jail,

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Ghulam Azam now in prison uniform

Medical team to decide on his stay in hospital

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Bringing him back to the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, the jail authorities put convicted war criminal Ghulam Azam in the white and blue chequered inmates' uniform.

Md Farman Ali, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail,

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EID SHOPPING Shutdowns frustrate wholesalers, retailers

SOHEL PARVEZ and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Wholesalers and retailers yesterday expressed their frustration over the sudden bout of shutdowns ahead of Eid, the peak selling season.

"It is preposterous that we are seeing shutdowns at a time when businesses typically clock up 50 to 60 percent of their annual sales," said Khalid Mahmood Khan, owner of popular boutique Kay Kraft.

"We did not have expected sales this Pahela Baishakh, but we made peace with it thinking we would make it up during

Ramadan. Alas, we have not been spared."

Since January this year, the opposition parties enforced 34 days of nationwide shutdowns and a series of regional and district level ones.

"From clothes sellers to essential commodity traders, the shutdowns have affected all including consumers," said Helal Uddin, vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Helal, also the president of Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners Association,

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Bravo, Keshab! UN award for his efforts to prevent child marriage

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Bangladeshi child rights activist Keshab Roy from Nilphamari has achieved "Youth Courage Award" of the UN for his relentless struggle to resist child marriage, and to prevent students from becoming school dropouts in his area.

Keshab, who had to quit his education to work as a labourer at a scrapped-iron shop due to abject poverty, eventually came up as an uncompromising hero.

He along with other members of

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WAR CRIMES VERDICTS Silence is BNP policy, for now

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The BNP, apparently in a quandary, has opted for remaining silent for now on the verdict against former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam and Jamaat men's violent protest against the judgment.

As part of its strategy, the main opposition party may also refrain from making any comments on today's verdict in the war crimes case against Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

BNP policymakers consider the issue as very tricky. In their view, if the

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Yunus Centre rebuts PM's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yunus Centre yesterday vehemently protested Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comments on Grameen Bank Founder and Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

"The complaints are completely false," said the Centre, which promotes the philosophies of the microcredit pioneer,

FULL REJOINDER - PAGE 7 SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Seven killed in bus plunge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven people were killed as a minibus plunged into the Turag river after it rammed a bus on Dhour Bridge on the fringe of the capital near Ashulia yesterday.

Another 20 passengers from both the vehicles were injured in the accident.

A Nabinagar-bound 30-seater minibus of Sayem Paribahan collided head-on with a local bus around 9:05am, said SM Badrul Alam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station. The minibus that was coming from Abdullahpur with 10 to 12 extra passengers then fell down in the river.

The majority of the passengers of the minibus were heading to their workplaces, said Mashiur Rahman, 33, an injured passenger of the vehicle. He himself was going to his office in Nabinagar.

On information, divers from the Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation around 10:30am. Later, a navy team joined in.

Seven dead bodies were recovered by 11:50am, said Fazlur Rahman, a diver. "We continued the search for another hour but had to halt it when one of our team members fell sick."

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A crane pulls the minibus out of the Turag after it plunged into the river, leaving seven people dead.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ