

# Jamaat terror

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Bangladesh and collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army.

Businesses, according to Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), lose around Tk 1,600 crore, including Tk 200 crore in the garment sector, each hartal day.

Considering the huge economic loss, the apex trade body the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) and DCCI yesterday expressed deep concern and called upon the government and all political parties to take attempts to avoid hartals in the holy month.

and vandalised at least 10 vehicles of English daily Dhaka Tribune and Ntv.

In the wake of their last two days' violent activities, many people fear of fresh spell of terror today after the war crimes tribunal's verdict in the war crimes charges against Jamaat second-in-command Mojaheed.

Earlier, Jamaat-Shibir men from February 28 to March 4 unleashed mayhem at least 18 districts to protest the verdict against its leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee who was awarded death sentence for war crimes. The violence left 74 people, including six police men dead, and more than thousand other injured.

At that time, temples and houses of minorities in at least 14 districts came under attack allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men. Many houses of minorities were also looted during the mayhem.

# Mojaheed's turn today

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reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

Narayanganj jail Superintendent Mustafizur Rahman said that amid tight security Mojaheed had been shifted to Dhaka in a prison van around 5:50pm.

On December 12, 2012, he had been shifted to Narayanganj jail from Gazipur prison. Mojaheed used to attend the case hearings there.

Meanwhile, like the other verdict days, Jamaat yesterday called a countrywide daylong hartal for today. It may prolong the shutdown by 24 hours if the verdict went against the Jamaat leader.

Deputy Registrar of the tribunal Arunav Chakraborty yesterday told The Daily Star that security at the tribunal would be beefed up keeping in mind the instances of other verdict days.

Director of Rapid Action Battalion's legal and media wing Commander Habibur Rahman said the security arrangement would be taken on requirement basis.

"Special surveillance will be kept at important places of the capital while a special reserved force and a dog

squad will be kept ready to promptly respond to any untoward incidents," he added.

The two tribunals, dealing with crimes against humanity cases, have so far delivered verdicts in five cases since the establishment of the first tribunal in March 2010 and the second one in March 2012.

The Tribunal-1 awarded former ameer of Jamaat Ghulam Azam 90 years' imprisonment while to its Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee the capital punishment.

The Tribunal-2 awarded expelled Jamaat member Abul Kalam Azad and its Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman death sentences while to another Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah, life term.

Mojaheed, a former technocrat minister of the last BNP-led alliance government, was arrested on June 29, 2010, in connection with a case filed for allegedly hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

On July 21, 2010, the special agency, formed to probe war crimes, commenced investing his



Workers try to reinstall the sleeper clips criminals removed from around 300 metre stretch of rail lines in Dighi area of Bogra town early yesterday. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



**Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed**  
Secretary General, Jamaat-e-Islami  
**Status in 1971:** Chief of Islami Chhatra Sangha, and alleged chief of infamous Al-Badr force.  
**Arrested:** On June 29, 2010.  
**Indicted:** June 21, 2012  
**Charges:** Seven charges including murder, genocide and conspiracy to abduct and kill intellectuals  
**Victims include:** Eminent journalist Serajuddin Hossain, musician Altab Mahmud, Rumi, son of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.  
**Prosecution witness:** 17  
**Defence witness:** One.

Mojaheed was shown arrested in the war crimes

case on August 2, 2010.

On January 16, 2012, the prosecution submitted 34 charges against him and the tribunal took the charges into cognisance on January 26. Following a prosecution's petition, the case was transferred to Tribunal-2 on April 25, 2012.

Mojaheed, who was a top leader of Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha in 1971, was finally indicted on seven charges on June 21, 2012.

As per the indictment order, Mojaheed in October 1971 had been elected the provincial president of Chhatra Sangha and became the chief of Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan army that was especially responsible for the planned killings of the intellectuals at the fag-end of the nine-month-long war.

Al-Badr was an "action section" and "armed wing" of Jamaat and was formed mainly with the members of Islami Chhatra Sangha, the Tribunal-2 had observed in Kamaruzzaman's verdict.

As many as 17 prosecution witnesses including the investigation officer of the case testified against Mojaheed, while his younger son gave testimony as

the lone defence witness.

The prosecution and the defence placed closing arguments between May 7 and June 5 and on the later date the tribunal kept the case waiting for verdict.

**Charges:**  
Abetting, facilitating and contributing to the abduction and murder of eminent journalist Serajuddin Hossain.

Abetting, facilitating and contributing to genocide in Hindu dominated Baidyadangi, Majhidangi and Baladangi areas of Faridpur.

Abetting and facilitating the confinement and torture of Hindu civilian Ranjit Kumar Nath in Faridpur.

Abetting and facilitating the confinement and torture of Abu Yusuf Pakhi in Faridpur.

Participating in, abetting and facilitating the murder of eminent musician Altab Mahmud; Rumi, son of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam; and two other freedom fighters.

# MOJAHEED'S TRIAL Witness Shaheen's car vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness in war crime accused Mojaheed's case, Shaheen Reza Noor could not escape Jamaat-Shibir's hartal violence yesterday, a day before a tribunal announces its verdict against the Jamaat leader.

Shaheen's car was vandalised in the capital's Panthapath during the countrywide daylong hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Executive Editor of the Daily Ittefaq, Shaheen said, "I was returning home around 5:30pm in my car, when some Shibir men brought out a sudden procession at Panthapath before the office of the English daily The Dhaka Tribune."

Armed with sticks and rods, they broke the glasses of several vehicles on the road, he added.

To avoid injury, Shaheen came out of the car and took shelter in a nearby alley until police came and brought the situation under control.

Witnesses said around 10 vehicles, including seven of the English daily's, were vandalised during the incident. Two handmade bombs also went off on the road.

Son of martyred intellectual Serajuddin Hossain, Shaheen testified against Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed at the International Crimes Tribunal-2 last year.

# Shutdowns

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said many stores could not sell a single item over the past two days.

Echoing his views was Shakhawat Hossain, a shop owner at Old Dhaka's Sharif Market, the wholesale hub for traditional menswear. "We have been open since morning but not a single customer has come," he said yesterday.

"Our buyers from outside Dhaka are not coming fearing violence. We are really in a bad shape. Every store here is sitting on piles of punjabi. We are yet to sell a fifth of our products for Eid," said Shakhawat, who has made 70,000 pieces of punjabi for Eid.

It was the same story at Gausia Market, a popular shopping place for women, where shopper turnout was almost drier yesterday.

Obydul Anwar Khan, deputy manager of Infinity Mega Mall, said: "People take risks to buy essential commodities -- they wouldn't risk their lives for a punjabi."

Abdul Halim, outlet manager of Aarong at Moghbazar, said due to shutdowns we are now depending on sales on Fridays and Saturdays. "Still, we may not

recover our losses."

Sohail Hossain, a sales manager of Gallerie Apex at the capital's Bashundhara Shopping Mall, said most retailers aim to reach at least half of their sales targets during Ramadan.

"If sales are lower than expectation in the run-up to Eid the losses cannot be recovered."

Obydul reiterated the same. "So, if the same situation continues throughout Ramadan many businesses would fold."

Khalid, who has 14 Kay Kraft stores across Dhaka and Chittagong, said many of his shops did not have 10 to 15 percent sales in the recent months.

"We have already fallen behind. If we do not have the expected sales ahead of Eid we will really be in trouble. We are very anxious."

Citing the recent price spiral of green chilli, Helal Uddin of FBCCI said more than 100 tonnes green chilli are rotting at Bhomra land port due to shutdowns.

Businesses requested the political parties not to enforce any more shutdowns during Ramadan for both religious and economic reasons.

# Fatness

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In their quest to find a husband, many of the women are being pushed to dangerous lengths to gain weight from being force fed taking pills that are not fit for human consumption.

US journalist Thomas Morton was sent to Mauritania to investigate the problem for the HBO documentary series, Vice.

He found that girls are fattened up from the age of eight by their families in a practice referred to as 'gavage' -- a French word that means force feeding and is used to describe the fattening of geese to make foie gras.

Once they reach a marriageable age, girls are sent to 'fat camps' in the desert where they are fed 15,000 calories a day.

For breakfast, the girls have breadcrumbs soaked in olive oil washed down with camel's milk. They then have frequent meals throughout the day of goat's meat, bread, figs and couscous, all with more camel milk to drink.

Morton found that many refer to the over-eating as torture and parents have been known to crush their daughters' toes with pincers if they resist.

One local woman told Morton: "Medication is the modern form of gavage. Women use steroids and they are taking pills made from birds. These pills are not meant to be used by humans."

The pill taking can also have dangerous side effects from infertility to heart failure.

# Seven killed

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The navy team, however, continued the search but did not find any more bodies.

Six bodies were handed over to the victims' relatives. They are Ali Hossain, an accounts officer of Beximco Group; Robiullah, a rickshaw puller; Fazlur Rahman, a physician of Modern Herbal in Ashulia; Sarwar Morshed, Forhad Hossain, a merchandiser, and Abdu Rahman Babu, helper of the minibus.

The unidentified body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue, said OC Badrul.

Passengers of the local bus sustained injuries as it struck a road divider after hitting the minibus, said a passenger.

The injured were given primary treatment at East West Medical College and Hospital in Kamarpura, Uttara.

Visiting the hospital, The Daily Star correspondent found Ali Newaz Bhuiyan, father of a dead victim, Robiullah, collecting money for his son's burial.

"My son and I were going to Aricha but now I do not even have the money to take his body to Raypura, Narshingdi," said Bhuiyan, who could collect Tk 2000.

Around 1:50pm the rescue team managed to pull up the minibus from nearly 20 feet under water with the help of a crane, said police officials of Turag Police Station.

Sub-inspector Nazrul Islam said they had seized both the vehicles but the drivers had already fled.

# Sudan leader Bashirhas fled Nigeria

AP, Abuja, Nigeria

Sudanese leader Omar al-Bashir has left Nigeria, a diplomat at his embassy said yesterday, following demands from human rights activists for the arrest of the man indicted for genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

Human rights lawyers filed a suit in the Federal High Court on Monday to try to compel Nigeria's government to arrest al-Bashir. And a civil rights group urgently appealed to the International Criminal Court to refer the government to the United Nations Security Council for allowing the visit.

Presidential spokesman Reuben Abati told The Associated Press that al-Bashir had come to attend the African Union summit, and not at Nigeria's invitation.

# TOKI MURDER Suspect picked up from jail gate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Posing as Rab members, some unidentified men picked up Toki murder suspect Yusuf Hossain Liton from the jail gate here upon his release on Monday afternoon, complained Yusuf's family members.

Aged about 32, Yusuf was freed from Narayanganj district jail after the higher court on June 24 had granted him bail in Toki murder case for six months. Yusuf's elder brother Emran Hossain Biddut told The Daily Star.

On Monday afternoon, family members went to receive Yusuf at the jail gate. As the time for Asr prayers approached, they went to say prayers.

In the mean time, Yusuf walked out of jail. Riding on two microbuses, some men reached the scene at that time, picked him up and drove away, said Emran, quoting witnesses. They introduced themselves to be members of Rapid Action Battalion.

Contacted, Assistant Police-Super Rabbiul Islam of Rab-11 denied about any such incident occurring before the jail gate.

Inspector Saiful of Fatullah Model Police Station said they were yet to receive any information about the incident. The district's Detective Branch of police also expressed ignorance about the incident.

Mymensingh police had detained Yusuf on April 29 at his relative's house in connection with the murder of the teenager.

Tanvir Mohammad Toki, an A-level student and son of former president of Narayanganj Sangskritik Jote Rafiur Rabbi, was found dead on the bank of the Shitalakkhya on March 8, two days after he went missing.

On March 20, Rafiur submitted a written complaint to Narayanganj Superintendent of Police Syed Nurul Islam, accusing seven people including former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman and his son Ayon Osman for the murder.

# West demands action against Iran

UNITED NATIONS, United States

The United States on Monday led western calls for tougher UN action on Iran's arms supplies to Syria and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

The calls came as Russia blocked a UN panel's unanimous ruling that a ballistic

missile launch by Iran was a breach of international sanctions, diplomats said.

The US government called on the UN Security Council and its sanctions committee to tackle Iran's alleged breach of UN measures with "increased vigor."

# Al-Badr men picked

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son of the eminent dramatist, said he was only four years old in 1971 while his 20-year-old elder brother was a freedom fighter during the Liberation War.

His immediate elder brother Ashfaque Munier Mishuk, popularly known as Mishuk Munier, was killed in a road accident on August 13, 2011, he said.

After Mishuk's death, his mother was not in a condition to speak in public, he added.

Asif also said his grandfather's residence was at 20, Central Road in the city and his father, who was a professor of the Bangla department of Dhaka University, was abducted by Al-Badr men from this residence on December 14, 1971.

On June 25, the tribunal indicted Mueen Uddin and

Ashrafuzzaman on 11 charges for their alleged involvement in the killing of 18 intellectuals between the early hours of December 11 and December 15, 1971.

Before Asif's testimony, defence counsel Shukur Khan on behalf of Ashrafuzzaman cross-examined Masuda.

In her testimony, Masuda said Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman were known to her as they used to participate in anti-liberation programmes on Dhaka University campus.

At one point of the cross-examination, Shukur asked Masuda when she had seen them holding a meeting.

"On August 15, 1971, I saw Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman taking part in a meeting, marking the independence day of Pakistan, at the Arts Faculty

Building on Dhaka University campus," said Masuda.

"As a supporter of the Liberation War, I used to roam around different areas, including Dhaka University campus, to collect information about the activities of the anti-liberation elements," she said.

Apart from Mueen Uddin and Ashrafuzzaman Khan, she had seen Motiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed at a meeting.

Later, defence counsel Tuny cross-examined Masuda on behalf of Mueen Uddin.

Both the defence counsels suggested that their clients were not involved in the abduction of Prof Giasuddin but Masuda rejected their claims.

# Bravo, Keshab!

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Surjomukhi, a children's organisation supported by Plan International, Bangladesh, has prevented the child marriages of 25 teenage girls, and stopped about a hundred children so far from being school dropouts.

The beginning was not smooth sailing for Keshab, son of day labourer Ozindra Barman, 55, and Ranjita Roy, 45, of Binnakuri village under Koimari union in Jaldhaka.

His father underwent two operations back in 2006 when Keshab was a class seven student at Binnakuri High School, forcing him to leave the school, and go to

work at a scrapped-iron shop in Jaldhaka.

The world around Keshab became narrower. But he never lost hope of going to school again. He then met Kanchon Chandra Roy, president of Surjomukhi.

He became a member of the organisation, and shared his ill fate with other members who persuaded his father to re-admit him to the school. Keshab never looked back since the effort was successful in 2007.

Chief executive of Plan International in the US received the award on behalf of Keshab from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters in New

York on July 12, which was declared Malala Day after Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist for female education.

Earlier, Gordon Brown, the UN secretary general's special envoy for global education and former British prime minister, informed Keshab of the latter's achievement by e-mail.

Under the banner of Surjomukhi, Keshab volunteered to prevent child marriages, school dropouts, and promoted sanitation, birth registration, and encouraged women to go to safe delivery centres.

Lauding Keshab, Gordon Brown in his message wrote:

"Your actions demonstrate the power of youth to charge against discrimination so that all young people can move from oppression to opportunity through the right to education."

In response, Keshab, 18, told The Daily Star: "I want to share this honour with the members of Surjomukhi, Plan International officials, concerned government officials and law enforcers who helped me to fight the odds."

Six other adolescents -- two from India, one each from Nepal, Pakistan, Morocco, and Sierra Leone -- also achieved the same award.

"Preventing early marriage is very difficult as parents of teenage girls usually get angry. They used to chase us, terming us bad people. They even alleged that we were breaking the marriages of their daughters with ill motives," said Keshab, now president of Surjomukhi, and a twelfth-grader of Jaldhaka BM College.

Asaduzzaman Russel of Plan International, Bangladesh, said Keshab had become a legend because of his fight against child marriage and school dropouts.

The award -- a certificate -- will be handed over to Keshab Roy very soon at a ceremony, he said.