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# Govt moves to rein in Jamaat

## Targets 16 districts to 'stave off violence' over war crimes trial verdicts

**PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE**

The government decides to go tough on Jamaat-Shibir to ward off possible pre- and post-verdict violence as judgements in three cases against Jamaat-e-Islami leaders are pending with the Supreme Court and the international crimes tribunals.

To keep the situation under control, the government has already taken several measures including arrest of troublemaking leaders of the Islamist party, which always resorts to violence following every verdict, and surveillance of the activities of Jamaat and its associate student body Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Based on information from the intelligence agencies, the government has selected 15/16 districts with Jamaat strongholds where bloody violence erupted last year and decided to arrest the party's top leaders there, sources said.

As part of the plan, the law enforcers on Monday arrested 21 Jamaat leaders and activists in Chittagong including city unit ameer and former lawmaker ANM Shamsul Islam, sources informed.

Intelligence agencies were keeping an eye on Jamaat-Shibir activities in the selected districts and would beef up their surveillance in the coming days, said an official of the Prime Minister's Office.

Of the districts, Chittagong, Satkhira, Joypurhat, Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar, Comilla, Chapainawabganj, Bogra,

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Firefighters try to control the blaze in Kalni Express, a train heading for Dhaka from Sylhet, at Cantonment Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

### Running train catches fire

*None hurt*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Three compartments of Kalni Express were gutted in a fire that broke out in the kitchen of the running train near Cantonment Railway Station in the capital yesterday afternoon.

No casualties were reported in the fire, Major Mohammad Mahboob, director (operations) of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star.

Abdul Mazid, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said the fire originated from an oven at a compartment that housed the kitchen.

It soon spread to two adjacent compartments.

After tracing the source of the fire to the kitchen around 1:30 pm, the staff pulled the emergency brake. The train stopped around 400 yards ahead at the station.

In a state of panic, passengers hurriedly jumped out of the train, said Major Mahboob.

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## Of nexus between cops and goons

**ZYMA ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH**

Allegations against the law enforcers continue to pile up, with a ward councillor yesterday levelling accusations against lawmen that they had a nexus with Nur Hossain, the prime accused in the seven-murder tragedy in Narayanganj.

Talking to The Daily Star via her younger sister at their parental home in Shiddhirganj, Jannatul Ferdous Nila, ward councillor for wards 4, 5 and 6, described how Hossain had harassed her with the help of law enforcers.

Sheila carried questions and answers back and forth from Nila, who was resting in the next room. Nila claimed that she was mentally abused by Hossain and for that she was incapable of facing this newspaper face-to-face.

"On one occasion two years ago, my father had some alcohol at our home. The then officer-in-charge of Shiddhirganj Police Station, Kamrul, came to our house on

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## Doctor, staff assault on-duty journalist

### Holds him captive at hospital for 2hrs

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A doctor and a staff of ZA Sikder Women's Medical College Hospital yesterday held Daily Prothom Alo special correspondent Shishir Morol captive for over two hours at the hospital and assaulted him.

Shafiu Azam, head of the cardiology department, and Sufian, an employee of the hospital, allegedly slapped and kicked the special correspondent of the daily and confined him to room-101 until 12:45pm

from 10:30am, the victim said.

Shishir was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday afternoon.

Shishir said he had gone to the hospital to investigate an allegation that Shafiu Azam, an assistant professor at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, had been working fulltime at ZA Sikder Women's Medical College Hospital without taking leave from CMCH.

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Shishir Morol



A child prays at Nandankanon Buddhist temple in Chittagong yesterday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community. Also known as Buddha Jayanti, it marks the three most important events of Buddha's life -- his birth, enlightenment and death (nirvana).

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## ANTARCTIC GLACIER

### Ice collapse goes unstoppable

**MAIL ONLINE**

The huge West Antarctic ice sheet is starting a glacially slow collapse in an unstoppable way, two new studies show.

Alarmed scientists say that means even more sea level rise than they figured.

The worrisome outcomes won't be seen soon. Scientists are talking hundreds of years, but over that time the melt that has started could eventually add 4 to 12 feet to current sea levels.

A Nasa study looking at 40 years of ground, airplane and satellite data of what researchers call 'the weak underbelly of West Antarctica' shows the melt is happening faster than scientists had

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## Jhenidah BNP leader hacked to death

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

A local BNP leader was killed allegedly by an Awami League activist in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah yesterday morning.

The victim, Ismail Hossain, 59, was president of ward-1 BNP unit in Kaliganj municipality.

Ismail, a resident of

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PRAYER TIMING			May 14
Fajr	4-15	Azan	4-50
Zohr	12-45	Jamaat	1-15
Asr	5-00		5-15
Maghrib	6-34		6-38
Esha	8-00		8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) should be disbanded as the elite force has now become involved in killings, abductions and forced disappearances?

Yes

(76%)

No

(24%)

TOTAL VOTES: 329

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has now become a killer force?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

KIDNAP OF 223 NIGERIAN GIRLS

US aircraft join search

AFP, Lagos

Manned US aircraft were in the skies above Nigeria yesterday in the hunt for more than 200 missing schoolgirls, almost a month after they were kidnapped by Islamist militants.

The United States said manned ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) aircraft were being flown and it had also shared commercial satellite imagery as part of the rescue effort.

Boko Haram militants abducted 276 girls from the remote northeastern town of Chibok in Borno state on April 14. Some 223 are still missing and on Monday the militants released a new video purporting to show some of them.

With electricity supply intermittent in Chibok, efforts were underway for the missing girls' parents to identify their daughters in the video, in which Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau claimed they had converted to Islam.

The co-ordinator of the Bring Back Our Girls campaign, which has helped drive international pressure for action through social media and global street protests, said three parents had seen their daughters on screen.

"Three parents have identified their daughters in the video," Hadiza Bala Usman told AFP from the Nigerian capital Abuja.

"(Borno) Governor (Kashim) Shettima has now organised a screening

in (the state capital) Maiduguri with audio and is bringing parents from Chibok to try to identify more girls."

The latest video, obtained by AFP, showed about 130 teenagers, all in Muslim dress and reciting the first chapter of the Koran and praying in an undisclosed rural location.

It was not clear where or when the footage was shot, although Shekau does refer to suggestions made in the last week by the United Nations that Boko Haram may have committed a crime against humanity by abducting the girls.

Nigeria's government said on Monday evening that it was studying the video in which the militant leader

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