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‘ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES’ Jamaat, Shibir to be banned thru executive order

Says law minister a day after 14-party alliance recommended outlawing them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has announced that it will ban Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir by today for their alleged involvement in the recent “anti-state activities”.

Law Minister Anisul Huq made the announcement yesterday, a day after the Awami League-led 14-party alliance unanimously recommended banning the two organisations.

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat, the minister said, “The party will be banned through an executive order.”

The recommendation for outlawing the two platforms came from a meeting of the 14-party alliance at the Gono Bhavan on Monday night. AL President Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

The Election Commission on October 29, 2018, scrapped the registration of Jamaat, a longtime ally of the BNP, following a High Court verdict that declared Jamaat’s registration illegal.

On August 1, 2013, the HC in a landmark verdict declared illegal the Jamaat’s registration with the EC. The EC the same year suspended the registration.

Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, then secretary general of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, along with 24 others filed a writ petition with the HC on January 25, 2009, seeking its order declaring Jamaat’s registration illegal.

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Japan team's gymnasts celebrate with the officials after winning the artistic gymnastics men's team final event of the Olympic Games at the Bercy Arena in Paris on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Judicial probe to cover deaths till July 21

13-hour curfew break from today in 4 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judicial inquiry commission, led by a High Court judge, can probe all killings in violence centring the quota reform protest between July 16 and July 21, said the law minister.

The government is also planning to make the one-member commission a three-member body as the probe has become extensive, said Law Minister Anisul Huq after a meeting at the home ministry.

The government formed the one-member probe body, led by Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, on July 16 to unearth the reasons behind the deaths of six people and to identify those responsible for the deaths and violence.

The committee was given 30 working days.

“The scope for work and terms of reference for

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One bullet, two lives and endless agony

Wife of fatally shot 19-year-old dies by suicide

NILIMA JAHAN and
RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Life had just begun for 19-year-old Jisan Ahmed, a small-time vendor who supplied water to shops in his neighbourhood from his battery-run cycle-van.



Just over a year ago, he married the love of his life Mishiti Akter. The newlyweds had known each other for three years before they tied the knot.

However, this blooming love story ended tragically, as both of their lives were brutally cut short.

During a clash between protesters and law enforcers

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Police drives, arrests continue

Another 354 held in Dhaka, elsewhere

STAR REPORT

At least 354 more people were arrested in the capital and elsewhere in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday as the nationwide crackdown on alleged saboteurs as well as protesters and opposition parties continues.

Of them, 215 were arrested by police in 29 districts.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) produced the 139 people arrested in the capital before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s (CMM) Court.

The court sent most of them to jail and placed some on remand.

With the latest arrest, at least 10,488 people, including students and members of the BNP and Jamaat Shibir, have been arrested in 672 cases filed in the capital and 51 districts over the last 13 days since July 18.

Several thousand named and several hundred thousand unnamed individuals have been accused in these cases.

The cases were filed, mostly by police, with different police stations over violence, vandalism, and arson, said DMP sources.

In the cases, police brought charges of gathering illegally, rioting, assaulting law enforcers, and damaging properties.

The country witnessed violence on an unprecedented scale after the peaceful demonstrations for quota reform turned deadly on July 15 when Chhatra League attacked the protesting students on different university campuses.

Biplob Kumar Sarker, joint commissioner (operations) of the DMP, stated at a briefing yesterday that block raids are to continue.

He also claimed that so far, 2,850 people have been arrested and some 264 cases have been filed with 50 police stations under the DMP in connection with the recent acts of sabotage and killings in the capital.

However, DMP sources had earlier said some 2,822 people were arrested in 243 cases till Monday.

Biplob also said that these cases would be investigated fairly and impartially.

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At least 10,488 people
have been arrested in
672 cases filed in the
capital and 51 districts
over the last 13 days
since July 18.

Lift curfew, restore access to social media

Urges Amnesty in letter to PM, condemns crackdown on protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International in an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demanded immediate lifting of curfew and restoration of full access to social media platforms.

It also called upon the PM to ensure that shoot on sight curfew orders and internet shutdowns will not be used in the future to crack down on protesters or to repress any other fundamental rights.

In the open letter, Amnesty Secretary General Agnès Callamard expressed grave concern over the recent violent crackdowns on the quota reform protests and urged urgent and concrete action to end the violence and ensure justice and accountability for the death of “over 200 people” during the protests.

The rights organisation also demanded immediate and unconditional release of all the detainees or arrestees held solely for exercising their right to protest peacefully.

On July 28, the home minister stated that the death toll from the violence is 147, while unofficial estimates put the figure at 211, making it one of the deadliest crackdowns on protests in Bangladesh’s history, it added.

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42 bodies found in Khan Younis

Say Palestinian health officials as Israeli forces
quit southern Gaza city ending incursion

AGENCIES

Thousands of Palestinians returned to their homes in the ruins of Gaza’s main southern city Khan Younis yesterday, after Israeli forces ended a week-long incursion there which they said aimed to prevent Hamas from regrouping.

Palestinian health officials said rescue workers had so far recovered 42 bodies of Palestinians killed in the Israeli incursion into eastern Khan Younis. Gaza’s Civil Emergency Service said more searches were underway with 200 people still reported missing.



- More searches underway as 200 people still missing
- Israel army hits Hezbollah targets in Lebanon
- Death toll in Gaza now 39,400

The Israeli military said its forces killed more than 150 Palestinian gunmen during the week-long raid, destroyed Hamas tunnels and seized weapons.

After the Israeli forces left, people streamed back to their homes on foot and with donkey carts carrying their belongings. Many found their houses damaged or destroyed.

Witnesses said army forces had bulldozed the main cemetery in Bani Suhaila, the town on the eastern outskirts of Khan Younis that was the main focus of the raid, as well as houses and roads nearby.

“I am coming back and I have faith in God. I don’t know whether we will live or die, but it is all for the sake of the homeland,” said Etimad Al-Masri, who had walked for at least five kilometers back to her home.

“Despite the suffering, we are patient and God’s willing we will have victory.”

Many residents said they had been displaced from their homes several times, reports Reuters.

Landslides kill 123 in Kerala

Dozens missing

AGENCIES

Landslides swept through tea estates and villages in southern India’s Kerala yesterday, killing at least 123 people while they slept as unexpected heavy rain collapsed hillsides and triggered torrents of mud, water and tumbling boulders.

The hillsides gave way after midnight following torrential rainfall on Monday in the Wayanad district of Kerala, a state known as one of India’s most popular tourist destinations. Most of the victims were tea estate workers and their families who lived in small houses or makeshift shelters.

Television images showed rescue workers scrambling through uprooted trees and flattened tin structures as boulders lay strewn across the hillsides and muddy water gushed through. Rescuers were being pulled across a stream, carrying stretchers and other equipment to rescue people.

At least 123 people were killed in the landslides, 128 injured and dozens

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Relief personnel carry the body of a victim during a search and rescue operation at a site following landslides in the Wayanad district of Kerala, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel targets Hezbollah commander

AFP, Beirut

Israel struck Hezbollah’s stronghold in southern Beirut on Tuesday in retaliation for rocket fire from Lebanon that killed 12 children over the weekend, saying it had targeted the commander responsible for the attack.

“The IDF [army] carried out a targeted strike in Beirut on the commander responsible for the murder of the children in Majdal Shams and the killing of numerous additional Israeli civilians,” the military said in a statement, referring to the Druze Arab town in the annexed Golan Heights where the children were killed on Saturday.

Lebanon’s Prime Minister condemned the Israeli strike on Hezbollah’s stronghold in Beirut’s southern suburbs.

Najib Mikati “condemned the blatant Israeli aggression on the southern suburbs of Beirut”, the premier’s office said in a statement, describing it as a “criminal act” in a “series of aggressive operations killing civilians in clear and explicit violation of international law.”

A source close to the Iran-backed militant group confirmed that “a leading commander” was the target of the strike, which hit near the group’s decision making body, the Shura Council.

The source added that two people were killed in the strike, but was unable to confirm if the commander was among them.

Minutes after the explosions rocked Beirut, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant posted on social media site X that “Hezbollah crossed the red line”.