

# Jamaat-Shibir BANNED

Govt issues gazette citing Anti-Terrorism Act, says it has evidence of the party's 'involvement' in recent violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday banned Jamaat-e-Islami and all its front organisations and entities, including Islami Chhatra Shibir.

After the law ministry's approval, the home ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification banning the anti-Liberation party and all its associate outfits.

The gazette came into effect immediately, meaning Jamaat and its front organisations are now not allowed to be in politics.

The ban came three days after a meeting of the Awami League led 14 party alliance, with Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, unanimously recommended banning Jamaat Shibir for their alleged involvement in anti-state activities.

According to yesterday's gazette, the government took the decision as per section 18 (1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act-2009 and listed it as a banned entity under the second schedule of the act.

The section reads: "For the purposes of this act, the government, on reasonable grounds that a person or an entity is involved in terrorist activities, may, by order, enlist the person in the schedule or proscribe the entity and enlist it in the schedule."

The notification said the government has enough evidence that Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir were directly involved in the recent killings, and destructive and terrorist activities and had also incited them.

The International Crimes Tribunal in several verdicts held Jamaat and Chhatra Shibir (previously known as Islami Chhatra Sangha) liable for committing genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

The notification mentioned the verdicts the International Crimes Tribunal-1 delivered in the case against former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam and also the ones International Crimes Tribunal-2 delivered in the cases against Jamaat leaders Abdul Quader Mollah and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

Five top leaders of Jamaat were sentenced to death for their crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

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The gazette came into effect immediately, meaning Jamaat and its front organisations are not allowed to be in politics now.



University teachers under the banner of "teachers against repression" hold a rally at the foot of Raju Bhaskariya yesterday demanding immediate release of students arrested during block raids, justice for those killed, and an end to the harassment of students and teachers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## UN free to probe any incident of violence: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the United Nations and any country can send their experts to Bangladesh for proper investigations into the recent incidents of violence.

"I want all incidents to be investigated because it should be found out what was behind those incidents and how those happened. I have appealed to the United Nations to send their experts. If any other country wants, they can send their experts also," she said.



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## UN offers to send fact-finding team

Its rights chief says reports of violence have serious implications for Dhaka's int'l standing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk has offered to deploy an independent fact-finding team to assist the Bangladesh government in building trust among all stakeholders and to help de-escalate tensions.

"In these challenging times, my office is ready to support your efforts in resolving the current crisis," he said in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 23.

Violent clashes centring the students' protest led to the killing of at least 201 people, as per The Daily Star count. Also, authorities arrested nearly 11,000 people across the country.

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## QUOTA PROTESTS 6 organisers freed from DB custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The six organisers of the quota reform protests who had been in the Detective Branch custody were released yesterday afternoon.

Badrul Islam, father of organiser Nahid Islam, confirmed their release to this newspaper, saying his son and the five others were freed around 1:30pm.

"I am taking my son home now ... I got a call early in the morning today from the DB office, and they asked me to come and

Protesters will hold programmes, including mass processions and prayers at mosques, temples, churches for those killed, today.

pick him up," he said.

A photojournalist from The Daily Star, who was at the spot, saw the students coming out of the DB office on the capital's Minto Road and get into a black microbus.

Three of the key protest organisers – Nahid Islam, Asif Mahmud and Abu Baker Majumder – were picked up from the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in Dhaka on July 26.

Nahid and Asif were undergoing medical treatment there while Baker was with them.

The next evening, DB picked up Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah.

Then on early July 28, the law enforcers picked up Nusrat Tabassum from her relative's home in the capital's Mirpur.

The six coordinators have since then been kept at the DB office. Detectives claimed that the students were kept in

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