

AEI

Bangladesh Air Express International Limited

Quality Worldwide Logistics

PLEASE CONTACT:
Head Office Tel : 9565114, Logistics Office Tel : 9884851, Fax : (800-2) 9886531, E-mail : dac@aeilogis.com
Chittagong Office Tel : (031) 721085, Fax : (800-31) 710106, Internet : fedcp@spctnet.com.smtp.
Air and Ocean-Forwarding • Customs Brokerage • Warehousing and Distribution • Express • NVOCC

Backed by
Guarantee

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

Please visit Transcom Pavilion No.1 at DITF
Ideal gift for any occasion.
Instalment facility available
only for purchases above Tk. 7,500
Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.
Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khuina: 720304 Bogra: 6215
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today



For some, there's delight in disorder

By Mir A Zaman

"When will be the next hartal?" asked Krishtha. Her father was surprised. When the whole country is desperately seeking a way out of the apparently endless series of opposition-enforced shut down, his little school-going daughter's eagerness for more, pronounced in her tone, fascinated him.

"Why? Why do you ask?" he queried.

"Hartal is fun, daddy," she made no attempt to hide her excitement. "No school, no homework. It's a lot of fun."

Indeed, hartal is fun for school-goers like her. When in the traditional trouble spots of the capital — Topkhana Road, Purana Paltan, some parts of the old city etc. — the pro- and anti-hartal activists are engaged in fierce face-off, the apolitical youngsters make the motorised vehicle-free, quieter streets of the capital their own. Oval, Lord's, Eden Gardens, MCG or, for that matter, Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The residents of the capital have, more or less, become used to the life in hartal hours.

"The first couple of hours in the morning is a little dangerous," said Azam, a resident of Mirpur. "That's when the activists bring out processions. There is always the chance of street-fighting. But as the day wears on, things get normal."

Normal it gets, indeed. At some parts of the capital, one finds it hard to believe that there is a hartal going on. The difference with any 'normal' day rests in the fact that there is hardly any automobiles.

"It's better in a way," said Raihan, who lives in the Dhanmondi residential area. "No smoke, no honking, no minibus, no tempo, no scooter ... on the whole, it's a pollution-free city."

Pollution-free, indeed. The only mode of transport is the rickshaw. The rickshaw-pullers charge little more than usual in the hartal days, many complain. But the rickshaw-pullers have their reason.



Hartal chaos

Dhaka's Farm Gate has forgotten how to be strike-bound.

"With the offices and markets closed, we find a few passengers," said Rahmat Ali. "I started at noon and now it's nine o'clock. I have earned only eighty taka."

While hartal gives relief to middle-income families, it is certainly no fun for the low-income groups. One rickshaw-puller said he worked as a day-labourer, but he had no work for three days, and was forced to pedal a rickshaw.

"I am very ill, but there is no food for my family at home, my children are starving. I have no choice but to pedal this rickshaw," he said.

The city comes alive in the afternoon. With the scorching sun swaying to the west and gentle breeze blowing, people come out on the streets in

search of some recreation. Fortunately for them, this time around, there are two fairs going on — the Dhaka International Trade Fair at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and the Amar Ekushey Book Fair at the Bangla Academy.

On the first day of the latest edition of opposition-enforced hartal from February 23 to 25 people were a little apprehensive and the crowd at these fairs was thin. However, the second day was just like any other day.

"No one would believe that there is a hartal going on," said the man, selling tickets at the trade fair. "We sold tickets worth nearly 300,000 taka."

Ten taka per ticket that means 30,000 tickets and that too from one booth. Inside the fair arena, there they were, people of all ages; happy, care-free lot, not even the slightest trace of apprehension on their faces.

"We came all the way from Uttara," said the man in his late thirties. With him were his wife and two children. "There are so many people on the streets, you don't feel scared. It seems everything is all right."

It was quarter past ten Wednesday night. On the rickshaw van were a young man and his wife. They were sharing jokes with their co-passengers and bursting into laughter. On the Rokeya Sarani, there was festivity in the air. Rickshaw-pullers whistling, singing loud, racing each other. Not quite a regular day. In the country-wide disorder, there was delight for them. Delight in disorder.

— Star Photo

BNP calls polls a 'farce' Opposition demands cancellation of results

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition leaders yesterday warned that the government's failure to cancel results of the just-concluded municipal polls could have grave consequences. They repeated their threat to launch an all-out movement to topple the government unless their demands were met.

Everybody witnessed the voterless and farcical polls. People will never accept this one-party election," BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said while briefing newsmen at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition prior to the conclusion of 66-hour countrywide shutdown.

The current agitation will turn into one-point movement to topple this anti-people government," he said, warning that the consequence might be "very dangerous if the government failed to cancel the polls results and accept the 4-point demand.

Bhuiyan dismissed claims

that elections to 136 municipalities held over the past three days had witnessed a large turnout of voters despite a boycott call by the BNP and its allies. Bhuiyan said most of the pictures that were published in newspapers were "stage-managed photos." He reiterated his claim that turn-out in the polls were less than 10 per cent.

He announced that opposition parties would arrange a *goyebana janaza* after the Juma prayers today to pray for the salvation of the departed souls killed during the hartals and observe a countrywide protest day tomorrow to decry the government's "repressive measures" on the opposition.

Bhuiyan alleged that armed terrorists belonging to ruling Awami League with open arms killed during the hartals and observe a countrywide protest day tomorrow to decry the government's "repressive measures" on the opposition.

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

private force."

Speaking at the briefing, Jatiya Party leader Kazi Firoz Rashid said police along with armed plainclothesmen attacked JP activists at Purana Paltan in the morning without any provocation and opened fire on activists leaving some 30 workers injured. Police also arrested some 30 JP activists from the spot, he added.

Jamaat leader Mohammad Kamruzzaman flayed the role of some newspapers, including the Daily Ittefaq, for publishing "misleading reports." "We are very much scared of this type of misleading reports and this kind of reporting are dangerous for the nation," he added.

The BNP leader strongly condemned arrest of brother-in-law of Sajal Chowdhury, killed on February 9, without any cause.

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami League terrorists or any other

On movement of plain-clothesmen with open arms, Bhuiyan said that law does not permit them to move openly with arms. "We have our doubts about whether they are Awami