

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal today, tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called another round of country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal today and tomorrow to protest armed attack on BNP procession and subsequent killings, and to press the demand for the government's resignation.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan announced the hartal programme from a post-hartal rally at Naya Paltan and a press briefing at the party's central office respectively. They claimed that the policeman aside, others killed and wounded belong to BNP and its front organisations.

Announcing the programme, the leader of the opposition in parliament said people of the country would not return home until the fall of the government and called upon all to join the street agitation.

Khaleda, who rushed to BNP central office after the hartal and addressed a big gathering of party activists, said that the "autocratic" Awami League government resorted to armed violence in a bid to destroy

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Riot police look on as armed activists of the ruling party go on a shooting spree (left) in the city's Malibagh area during hartal hours yesterday, killing four and injuring four others. One of those armed youths (in striped T-shirt) was seen brandishing his weapon in presence of local Awami League MP, Dr HBM Iqbal and on-duty police personnel.



PHOTO: STAR

## Gunshots from AL procession kill three : Cop dies from stray bullet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons including a policeman were killed and four others were bullet-hit when ruling party activists opened fire on an Opposition procession at about 11:30 am in the city's Malibagh area during yesterday's hartal.

The processionists opened fire in presence of police. HMB Iqbal, Awami League MP from Dhaka-10 constituency, was leading the procession, witnesses said.

This happened when most of the AL cabinet ministers and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were in Natore.

As soon as about half a dozen armed men, most of them carrying modern firearms, finished the firing, they marched through the Malibagh-Shantinagar road. At this stage, a few shots were heard from the direction of the fleeing Opposition activists but none in the Awami League procession

was hurt, the witnesses said.

Of the four, three were shot dead just beside the petrol pump at Malibagh crossing. An off-duty policeman was killed as a bullet hit him inside the Rajarbagh police lines. Awami League and BNP blamed each other for the killings.

The BNP-led four-party opposition alliance called the countrywide shutdown as part of an agitation programme demanding immediate resignation of the government.

Witnesses told The Daily Star that violence ensued following firing of shots from the Iqbal-led procession, targeting a pro-hartal procession led by BNP leader and former mayor of Dhaka Mirza Abbas. They claimed that the ruling party procession was participated by some of the most notorious terrorists in the city.

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## Hasina condemns BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned the killing of four people, including a policeman during hartal hours in the city.

In a message, the prime minister expressed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

## AL embarrassed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Untoward political developments in recent times, including the killings in the capital during hartal hours yesterday, have left many ruling party leaders embarrassed.

The Central Working Committee (CWC) of the Awami League meets this evening at the Gonobabhan, the

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## Fifty-fifty chance of striking 33.5 TCF gas reserves

Joint study report presented

SHARIER KHAN

The Bangladesh-US joint study on gas resources presented to the government yesterday said the country has a 50-50 chance of striking 33.5 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas in next 30 years if it applies modern exploration technology.

The report prepared by experts from Bangladesh and United States Geological Survey (USGS) will be made public at a formal presentation at Petrobangla today.

Five experts from the USGS headed by Bob Millichi and an official from the US Department of Energy arrived in the city Sunday night with the 200-page final report.

The report was presented to Petrobangla yesterday, where Energy Secretary, other high officials and US energy experts were present. They discussed the report for about five hours, sources said.

The report said there is 95 per cent possibility that Bangladesh has new gas reserves of around 8.7 TCF and five per cent possibility of 67 TCF.

The country also has a mean potential of striking 153 million barrels of Natural Gas Liquids (NGL).

The study however did not look into the potential of oil resources, the sources said.

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## NCTB to take action against Pustaka

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) will take action against Pustaka, a Beximco concern, for its failure to print and distribute textbooks within the stipulated time.

"We have no choice but to take proper action against the printer for its failure to print and distribute textbooks as per schedule," NCTB Chairman Dr Tapan Kanti Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, "the board is not planning to take any action now," he added, "since it might further hinder the printing and distribution process."

On completion of printing and distribution of textbooks, the board would initiate proper action against the defaulting printers, he said.

Pustaka, scheduled to complete printing and distribution of 2.51 crore secondary-level textbooks by November 30 last year, would now complete the task February 25. The

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## INSIDE TODAY

ARTICLE 4

Outside shadows over Dhaka  
Kuldeep Nayyar  
writes from New Delhi

SUPPLEMENTS 8 & 9

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains two supplements—one on 'National Conference of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP' on Page 8 and the other on 'Convocation of Khulna University' on Page 9

	Sun Rise	Sun Sets
Feb 14		5.51 pm
Feb 15	6:34-am	

## Prayer Timings

February 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-54	6-00
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

## BIMSTEC meets tomorrow, to focus on preferential trade

MANWARUL HAQ

Commerce and trade ministers of BIMSTEC countries meet in the Myanmar capital of Yangon tomorrow in an attempt to create a preferential trade arrangement among five member-countries.

Several issues related to operational aspects of the Trans-Asian

Highway and improvement of communication links within the BIMSTEC region are also expected to feature at the ministerial meeting.

It would be the fourth minister-level meeting of the organisation and second of the commerce and trade ministers. Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil will lead the Bangladesh delegation in the meeting.

Discussions at the forthcoming parley are expected to focus on initiation of a preferential trading arrangement. Such an arrangement on a 'start-up' basis would pave the path towards creation of a free-trade area to bolster trade and commerce amongst the BIMSTEC countries.

It was learnt that the BIMSTEC

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## Khaleda not allowed to see dead bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other party leaders yesterday were not allowed to see the dead bodies kept at the morgue of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The leader of the opposition in parliament along with a group of leaders, including BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, rushed to DMCH at about 8:40pm but could not readily enter the hospital complex as police had closed the main gate.

Later, police was persuaded to let Khaleda and her companions in. However, they had to negotiate with three more police barricades inside the DMCH. Eventually, when she and her party men reached the morgue, they found it under lock

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## Qulkhwan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwan Aziz Khan, eminent journalist and Executive Editor of The Daily Star will be held at his 278/2, Elephant Road residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

NO TIME  
THEME



My today.  
Our tomorrows.  
Warmth of the hearts.  
Feelings of the souls.  
Set it free.  
It may've been mine.  
Or never was.  
The mug of coffee in hand.  
A perfect harmony.  
My Nescafé, my Coffee Mate.

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Downmaxing is the word. The easiest way from A to B is still the easiest way. No problem is so big that you cannot go around it. That is how we at Tulip think and work. Minimize the problem. Maximize the potential. Cut restrictions. Make clear. Find answers. Max it down. Max it down. Make it work for you.

every client is a niche  
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