



CONSTRUCTION COLLAPSE

Pilings along with a wall fall apart in Gulshan

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RAFA FALTERS BEFORE WIMBLEDON

Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga upsets world No1 Rafael Nadal at Queen's

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KOTLER'S RECIPE

Marketing guru Philip Kotler advises Bangladesh to develop global brands for higher growth

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Mangrove forest plundered

2.5km road project in a Bhola char gets AL lawmaker's blessings; flouts HC order, environmental law

SOHRAB HOSSAIN in Char Kukrimukri and MORSHED ALI KHAN in Dhaka

Within hours after a court judgement that clearly directed the authorities to abide by the forest and environment acts, groups of people have chopped down thousands of trees inside a mangrove forest and a designated wildlife sanctuary to build a road in the remote island of Char Kukrimukri.

The lawmaker of Bhola 4 (Charfashion) Abdullah Al Islam alias Jacob and his local supporters backed chopping down of the mangrove forest for building the 2.5-kilometres long road without any environmental clearance or permission from the forest department as required by the law of the land.

The destruction of the forest would also greatly contribute to habitat loss for thousands of wildlife species, which depend

on the forest. According to Ronald Halder, a wildlife expert and author of the "A Photographic Guide to Birds of Bangladesh", said that Char Kukrimukri is home to a wide range of winter and local birds.

"The road would instantly cause habitat loss for the wildlife in the area," Halder said. In addition, hundreds of deer, otters, fowls live in the mangrove forest of Char Kukrimukri.

The forest department has vehemently objected to the project and suggested at least two alternatives for building the road, bypassing the forest area. The local Union Parishad planned to link two villages Babugonj and Patila, through the proposed road.

The hurried felling of the trees has also defied the law that says the sale of the trees

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Trees felled by a band of locals, reportedly backed by a lawmaker, to construct a road inside a mangrove forest of Char Kumkumari, Bhola. The photo was taken Friday afternoon.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Economy to get hurt

Warn businesses once again

STAR REPORT

Leaders of the chambers and trade bodies yesterday urged the main opposition BNP to withdraw hartal and solve political problems in parliament saying strikes badly hurt the economy.

A stable political situation is a must for achieving the targeted economic growth and creating

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Hassle for home-goers

Vehicles go off road early as 7 buses burnt on eve of 36-hour hartal; mobile courts jail 52 pickets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of city dwellers were left stranded on streets yesterday after pro-hartal pickets vandalised several buses forcing many of them to stay put in their garage.

At least seven buses and two other vehicles were torched in Dhaka on the eve of the BNP-Jamaat's 36-hour countrywide hartal. Pickets also ransacked several vehicles.

With buses becoming more scarce, people were seen waiting for hours at

intersections.

Tofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station, said a group of youths set fire to a staff bus of Bangladesh Bank near Culvert Road around 1:30pm while pickets set fire to a bus near Shapla Chattar around 2:30pm.

Ramna police said unidentified people set fire to a bus at Shantinagar around 3:35pm.

Four others were torched in Badda, Mirpur and Bakshibazar in the night. An auto rickshaw was set ablaze on Bijoy

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Hartal aims for anarchy

AGENCIES, Dhaka

The leader of the opposition is creating sufferings for the people by calling hartals, though she used to talk against it while in power, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

Speaking to the Awami League (AL) leaders and the activists at Ganobhaban on the occasion of the day of her release from jail during the last caretaker government, she said the opposition party is

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It's our fight for existence

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has directed her party leaders to put in their best to make the party's anti-government agitation programme including hartal a success but asked them to avoid arrest tactfully.

"We have to fight against the government for a long time. Keep yourselves safe so you can carry on a long-term movement," party sources quoted Khaleda as

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Muhith slates CPD again

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith again came down heavily yesterday on the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) for questioning the provisional estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) growth by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

"CPD blamed the government for influencing growth data and that's why I called totally

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PHOTO: STAR

A policeman tries to extinguish fire on a bus at Shantinagar in the capital yesterday, a day before the 36-hour non-stop hartal called by the main opposition BNP and its allies.

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INAUGURATION CEREMONY



Meghna Group of Industries has established a 25.17 MW capacity power plant

Everest Power Generation Company Limited

Inaugurated on 11 June, 2011 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Power & Energy Advisor Dr. Toufiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, Hon'ble State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Muhammad Enamul Huq, Hon'ble Whip, Mr. Md. Mazibul Hoque, local Hon'ble Member of Parliament Mr. Abdullah Al Kaisar and Mr. Mostafa Kamal, Chairman and Managing Director, Meghna Group of Industries and its officials were present in the ceremony held at its Industrial park located at Meghnaghat, Sonargaon, Narayanganj. Meghna Group has now been increased to generate 60 MW of power.



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