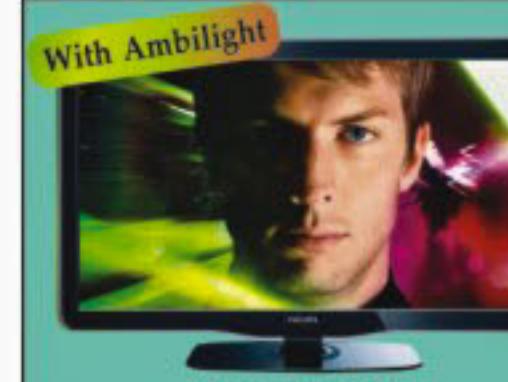




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Deadly clashes rock Egypt

Curfew imposed; two dead; 300 wounded

AFP, Cairo

Calm returned to Cairo yesterday after Egypt's military rulers imposed an overnight curfew around the defence ministry following fierce clashes between troops and protesters that killed two people.

The unrest comes ahead of the landmark presidential polls amid fears by many Egyptians that the military rulers will renege on a pledge to hand power to civilian rule after the election and that the vote will be rigged.

The presidential election is scheduled for May 23 and 24 with a run-off for June 16 and 17 if there is no outright winner.

Egypt's military yesterday arrested 300 people over the deadly clashes and imposed a new overnight curfew for the second successive night, a military source told AFP.

Military prosecutors said the 300, including nine journalists, "will be held for 15 days pending investigation" into clashes in the Abbassiya district on Friday that left two people including a soldier dead and at least 300 injured.

A security official confirmed the number and said more arrests could be made.

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PHOTO: AFP

Protesters walk away from a cloud of tear gas smoke during clashes with army troops in Cairo's Abbassiya district on Friday. Heavy gunfire could be heard as clashes between troops and anti-military protesters spread around the ministry building and street battles raged in side roads.

Pakistan a failed state

US lawmaker tells Gilani

PTI, Washington

Influential American Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has told Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Gilani that his country is a failed state and no amount of US aid money will ever change that.

"It is becoming increasingly clear to Members of the US Congress that Pakistan is a failed state and no amount of US aid money will ever change that," Rohrabacher wrote in a letter to Gilani.

In his letter, Rohrabacher condemned a recent police action that resulted in the death of four Baluchi men.

"Pakistan's future will remain bleak and marred by political violence as

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

No plan to ban hartal
Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is not mulling a law to ban hartal in the country, Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed said yesterday.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

PRAYER TIMING
May 6

Asan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Mini fund stymies local progress

Local body representatives lament govt's control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of local government bodies yesterday said they could not take up many development projects due to poor allocation of funds and lack of the authority to collect taxes locally.

At a dialogue, speakers including a former election commissioner recommended that local government elections

be held through direct nominations from political parties to make parties in power more accountable to the grassroots.

"Till date, the central government has been controlling and managing programmes for grassroots-level development. As a result, the local government institutions suffer from resource crunch," said Selina Hayat Ivy, mayor of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Sins of Muslims led to ME unrest

Says Saudi Grand Mufti

REUTERS, Jeddah



Saudi Arabia's top religious official has blamed Muslim sinfulness for instability in the Middle East, where pro-democracy unrest has toppled four heads of state.

"The schism, instability, the malfunctioning of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Ctg BNP leader goes missing

Family says he was out for a walk, police claims he travelled to Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A BNP leader in the port city went missing on Friday night with his family and police coming up with conflicting reports on his whereabouts.

Md Ziaur Rahman Zia, 35, publicity secretary of Pathantuli ward unit of BNP,



Md Ziaur Rahman Zia

went out of his residence at Daummya Pukurpar area under Double Mooring Police Station at about 11:00pm on Friday, and is missing since then, members of his family said.

But police said Zia, who is

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Fatal unhappiness

Man kills wife, 2 children before taking his own life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After strangling his wife and two children with a rope, a man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself with the same rope in Chittagong's Rangunia early yesterday, reportedly over family feud.

Prakash Barua, 40, an LMAF doctor, first strangled his wife Rozi Barua, 35, with a nylon rope at his Sonaichhari home around 2:00am, Babul Akhtar, assistant police super (ASP) of Hathazari circle, told The Daily Star.

Around 6:00am, Prakash went to his uncle's home nearby as his son Simanta Barua, 8, and daughter Soma Barua, 6, were sleeping there. He asked the children to return home saying that their tutor Champa Dey would

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

JU strike called off on assurance

JU CORRESPONDENT

Agitating students at Jahangirnagar University yesterday called off their fast-unto-death programme upon assurance from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that she would look into the matter.

Teamed up as 'Jahangirnagar Sangskritik Jote' and 'Santrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar', the protesters were staging for removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Sara Begum Kobori on behalf of Hasina met the hunger strikers and assured them that the premier would not disappoint them.

The AL leader offered the protesters juice in an effort

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



A relative cries her heart out for Prakash Barua and his family members in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong yesterday. Prakash allegedly committed suicide after strangling his wife and two children. Inset, the four in a family photo.

Circular
8 May, 2012 World Red Cross Red Crescent Day

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is going to celebrate 184th Birth Day of the great Jean Henry Dunant the founder of Red Cross Red Crescent through various activities on that day. The major activities are as follows;

- Hoisting National Flag: 07:00 am, the national Headquarters, Moghbazar, Dhaka.
- Colorful Rally: 07:30 am from Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital to the National Press Club. Chief Guest, the Honorable Minister **Mr. Abdur Razzaque, MP, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management**. organizer-Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.
- Photography Exhibition: 10:00 am, "La Gallery" and "Gallery Zoom" of Alliance Francoise De, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Chief Guest, the former Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court and **Chief Advisor of the Caretaker Government Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman** and the Special Guest, the Honourable Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Dr. A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique.
- Life Membership and Fund Collection: 10:00 am, College Auditorium of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital and the National Headquarters, Dhaka.
- Blood Collection: 10:00 am, Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital and Sonali Bank (Shapla Chattar), Motijheel, Dhaka.
- Gift Distribution among patients in Hospital: 12:00 am, Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Dhaka Shishu Hospital.
- Discussion, Red Crescent Award and Prize Giving Ceremony: 03:00 pm, Auditorium of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital. Chief Guest, the Honorable Minister of Education **Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP and Professor Dr. M S Akbar, MP**, the Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.
- Under the co-curriculum activities in academic institutions First Aid corner, RCY rally, wall magazine, discussion events will be organized.

Capt. (Rtd.) Abu Bakar
Secretary General

The Daily Star
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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BCCI leaders that the government should enact a law banning hartal considering the loss it inflicts on the country's economy?

Yes (48.8%)

No (48.6%)

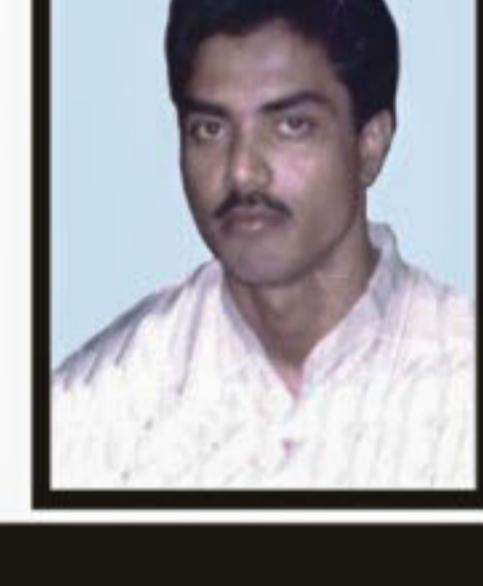
No Comments (2.5%)

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the ruling party's stance to go tough if the BNP-led opposition enforces hartal or observes similar programmes against the government in the coming days?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

brac



We mourn

We announce with profound sadness the loss of our colleague Mohammed Mohiuddin, who was tragically killed by armed miscreants in the western Afghanistan province of Ghor last Thursday (Inna Lillah ... Rajeun). Mohiuddin joined BRAC in 1999 and had spent the last 13 years working tirelessly to create new opportunities for the most downtrodden people in society. Since 2009, he had been working closely with the Afghan communities on the livelihood improvement project of BRAC Afghanistan.

Mohiuddin, of Fulbaria in Mymensingh district, has left behind his wife, two children, family and many friends and well-wishers. His untimely death is also an irreparable loss for BRAC. We express our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and commit to stand by their side in these difficult times.

- The BRAC family