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No agitation until Dec 26

Announces 18-party; vandalism, blasts mark 8-hr hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Explosions of hand-made bombs, acts of vandalism and clashes between law enforcers and opposition activists on streets marked the eight-hour countrywide hartal yesterday.

The BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance has not planned any agitation programme till December 26.

"It's the month of victory and we have programmes till December 26 to mark the victory day. But we will be bound to declare tougher agitation programmes if forced by the government and our demands are not met within the time," BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam told a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office in the afternoon.

Over 350 opposition activists were arrested across the country, including 100 in Dhaka, during yesterday's shutdown, claimed Tariqul, also the coordinator of the alliance's agitation programmes. He demanded the government release all the arrestees.

Police, however, put the number of the detained people in the capital at 27. About 40 hand-made bombs went off, and at least 15 vehicles were vandalised at different city points during strike hours.

Earlier on Wednesday night, the law enforcers arrested Shafiqur Rahman, acting secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, at Shankar in the city's Dhanmondi.

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An elderly patient is being taken to hospital on a rickshaw-van from Old Dhaka, as no other vehicles were available during the eight-hour hartal yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Mojaheed was seen on Pak army's vehicle

Recalls war crimes witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that he might have seen Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed in an army jeep when he was escaping from the Pakistani occupation army during the Liberation War.

"I think I have seen Mojaheed Saheb on the jeep. I was in tension and under a life threatening situation," AKM Habibul Haque alias Munnu, the 10th prosecution

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Tk 3,350cr investors' money gobbled up

Destiny chairman confesses before magistrate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Destiny Group Chairman Mohammad Rafiqul Amin yesterday confessed before a magistrate that he along with other top officials had misappropriated Tk 3,350 crore in investors' money.

He also spoke of the roles of other top officials including Destiny 2000 Ltd Chairman Mohammad Hossain behind the embezzlement, said court sources citing a confessional statement made

before the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate.

Meantime, Mohammad Hossain yesterday also gave a similar confessional statement before another magistrate.

"Amin has admitted that he in league with Mohammad Hossain and some other top officials embezzled Tk 3,350 crore collected from their investors," said an official of the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina goes around the Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant phase-II after commissioning the new phase of the plant in the capital yesterday. With the launching of the new phase, the plant's capacity will be doubled from 22.5 crore litre a day and there will be no water crisis in the city, claims Dhaka Wasa. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: BSS

Oldest galaxy regains title

AP, Los Angeles

A galaxy once considered the oldest has reclaimed its title, scientists reported on Wednesday.

Poring through Hubble Space Telescope photos, the team recalculated the galaxy's age and

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Xmas cruise turns into 'plague ship'

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A dream Christmas cruise has turned into the holiday from hell, according to passengers who claim as many as 400 travellers have been struck down with the norovirus winter vomiting bug.

One traveller aboard the P&O liner Oriana, which is on a 10-night Baltic cruise out of Southampton visiting Christmas markets, said people felt like they were sailing on a "plague ship".

P&O's parent company

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PRAYER TIMING		December 14
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Ensure worker safety in RMG supply chains

US lawmakers write to Obama

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of US lawmakers including senators and a congressman have urged upon their President Barack Obama to take all possible actions to ensure that all clothing imports, especially that for the US armed forces, be made at factories that ensure safety at workplace.

"...use all tools at your disposal to ensure that the federal government does not pursue or continue contracts or licensing agreements with prime contractors,

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Be part of nat'l 'movement'

Khaleda asks businesses at Batexpo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon businessmen and industrialists to play their role and be part of a national movement to help the country get rid of the existing anarchy.

"Under the current circumstances, the businessmen and industrialists cannot afford to sit silent. The country's industry, commerce and economy will get destroyed



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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the comment of Home Minister MK Alamgir that no Chhatra League activist was involved in the killing of Bishwajit is justified?

Yes (6%)
No (92%)
No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 513

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the demand of BNP-Jamaat backed lawyers to start a fresh trial at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)