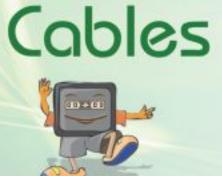
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No agitation until Dec 26

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.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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.

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 SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

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.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



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

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 Barak Obama to take all possible actions to ensure that all clothing : ists to play their role and be part of a imports, especially that for the US armed : national movement to help the country

safety at workplace. ensure that the federal government does · afford to sit silent. The country's industry, not pursue or continue contracts or licens- : commerce and economy will get ing agreements with prime contractors, : destroyed SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Ensure worker Be part of nat'l movement'

Khaleda asks businesses at Batexpo

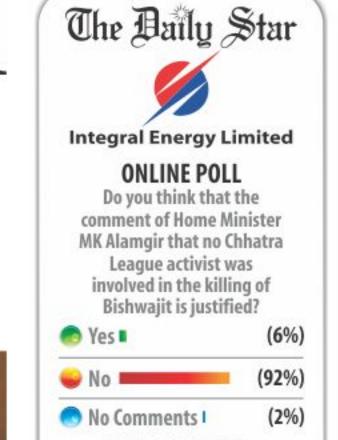
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon businessmen and industrialforces, be made at factories that ensure : get rid of the existing anarchy.

"Under the current circumstances, the "...use all tools at your disposal to · businessmen and industrialists cannot

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1





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

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

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



The Daily Star

14th 'O' & 'A' Level **Award Presentation Ceremony, 2011-2012**

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Announcement for 'O' & 'A' Level **Private Candidates and Schools**

Private Candidates

Oldest galaxy

A galaxy once considered the oldest has

reclaimed its title, scientists reported on

Poring through Hubble Space Telescope pho-

tos, the team recalculated the galaxy's age and

regains title

AP, Los Angeles

Wednesday.

Private candidates who fulfil the criteria described below are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. The criteria to be fulfilled are as follows: Criteria for 'O' Level

Minimum 6 (six) 'A' grades in two consecutive sittings within May/June 2011 to May/June 2012

Criteria for 'A' Level

Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades within 1 academic year (May/June 2011 to May/June 2012)

Eligible candidates are requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Baily Star office, 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1215, with their original Results Certificates and a photocopy and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person on 17,18,19 or 20 December, 2012, between 11:30 am and 3:30 pm. Schools

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted by The Daily Star (i.e. has not been informed of the first scheduled meeting through regular post, email or phone) is requested to contact Mr. Khairul Islam at The Daily Star office (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215), on the aforementioned dates and times or email him at abeer@thedailystar.net by December 29, 2012, with:

• The name of the school, phone number of a responsible representative (who will

attend the meetings) and a valid email address that is checked regularly. The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A' grades achieved by each candidate, and photocopies of results certificates for each candidate.

NOTE: If you know of any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please communicate the above information to them so that we may include them in this ceremony as well.