

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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## IMAGINE CUP 2013

A Buet team wins the competition with their project Happy Watch

PAGE IT &amp; TELECOM

## TIMELESS BANGLA DHOL

Star talks to Nazrul Islam, a widely travelled and accomplished dhuli

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## BHAGAT SINGH CASE

A petition with a Pak court seeks to prove the freedom fighter innocent

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# HARTAL At cost of people

SOHEL PARVEZ and SUMAN SAHA

It was a scorching hot day yesterday, and Mohammad Masud stood at what is typically a bustling spot in the capital's Motijheel with a heap of peanuts.

But there was hardly anyone to buy peanuts from him.

"This is the usual scene on hartal days," Masud says.

The sole breadwinner of a family of six who live in Kishoreganj, Masud last remitted them Tk 2,000 two months back.

"I have been receiving constant reminders to send money, but I don't have enough. The business has been terrible of late."

The back to back shutdowns enforced by the BNP and

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PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH

The burnt-out vehicles of Chhatra League men at Kajirhat in Chittagong. Hefajat-e Islam activists torched these bikes after they swooped on a BCL rally. Inset, the fire service vehicle which was also set ablaze as it tried to douse the fire.

## Four killed in hartal

STAR REPORT

Three persons were killed and more than 100 people injured as Hefajat-e Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami activists joined in by locals clashed with Awami League men in Fatikchhari upazila of Chittagong during the countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday.

Around 100 vehicles including motorcycles, jeeps, pick-ups, a police van and a fire truck were torched during the incident. Besides, around 20 shops were set ablaze, said police.

Meanwhile, a Jamaat activist died in Khulna in fighting between police and Shibir men. The victim was identified as Mansur Ali Gazi, 40, an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Of the dead in Chittagong, two were primarily identified as Forkan and

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## Mahmudur held in Skype case

Shown arrested in two other cases; police raid, lock Amar Desh press; Khaleda, Hefajat lead condemnation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of Bangla daily Amar Desh, was placed on a 13-day remand, hours after he was arrested at his newspaper office in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's



Court in Dhaka granted the remand after police produced Mahmudur with a prayer for 24 days' remand in three cases.

In another development, police last night locked the Amar Desh press and seized a computer and some documents. It means the

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## Ways still there for talks, deal

Ashraf says about political stalemate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami sought to overthrow the government by using the Hefajat-e Islam, Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam alleged yesterday.

"They [BNP-Jamaat] wanted to keep Hefajat [activists] for four days in the capital to oust the government. The BNP even had preparations to arrange food for the Hefajat [men] for four days," he told a roundtable at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

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## Hartal the only choice

Khaleda tells worried businesspersons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In response to some business leaders' concerns over the sorry state of the economy due to hartals, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said the opposition parties have no other

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## Ruthless

Boy clings to life after attack by pickets

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Children are not safe -- not even in the lap of their mothers -- during hartal hours.

Six-year-old Sohan Sheikh, a kindergartener at Boalmari upazila in Faridpur, is fighting for life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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Sohan Sheikh

## Khaleda seizes cell phones

BNP leaders at meeting feel embarrassed

SHAKHAWAT LITON

In a surprise move, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia collected the cell phones of her senior party colleagues during a party meeting on Wednesday night and returned those to them only after the meeting was over.

The move is seen as an extreme measure to "prevent the meeting discussions from being leaked" to the media.

Nine members of the standing committee, the highest policymaking

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## GDP growth to go down

Moody downgrades it from 6.3pc to 5.9 amid hartal spate

STAR REPORT

Recent political strikes in Bangladesh are weighing on its economic growth, heightening its vulnerability to event risks, and threatening to derail reform progress, a credit negative for the country, Moody's said in its issuer comment yesterday.

The global rating agency also warned that prolonged unrest is likely to undermine Bangladesh's democratic institutions and distract the government from effective policy-making.

"Strikes also send a negative signal to foreign investors, which are reflected in Bangladesh's low

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