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# The Daily Star

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## NABABARSHA 1420

The nation celebrates its biggest festival to welcome Bangla New Year

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## TAKA GAINS FURTHER

The currency continues to rise against dollar making exports more expensive

PAGE B1

## TAMIM OUT OF 1ST TEST

The Bangladesh opener has been ruled out of the first Test against Zimbabwe

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## POLLS-TIME GOVT

# PM rejects all new formulas

UNB, Dhaka

A day after Transparency International, Bangladesh's (TIB) proposal to form an 11-member polls-time government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday turned down all new formulas from various quarters on making the next election credible.

"These formulas will only create more complexities... they will not help strengthen democracy and maintain its uninterrupted march forward," she said.

Referring to a suggestion by a section to run the country under the Shariah [moral code and religious law of Islam], Hasina said the country would be run as per the 'Madinah Charter' and the 'Prophet's [pbuh] Sermon on the Last Pilgrimage'.

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League,

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Motifs being painted on Manik Miah Avenue in the capital last night to celebrate Pahela Baishakh today, the first day of Bangla new year. The painting was supposed to go on all night. Bangla daily Prothom Alo, carrier Airtel and Berger Paint organised the event.

## GREETINGS

The Daily Star

Wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers a happy Bangla New Year 1420



WELCOME 1420

## Pahela Baishakh . . . in all its radiance

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

It is that time of year when Bangalees celebrate their heritage and, through that celebration, assess their place in the universal scheme of things. For Bangalees, like millions of others across the globe, have a claim on history based on the cultural tradition their ancestors shaped for them, one that they renew annually through Pahela Baishakh. There are the currents and cross-currents of history which have given

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## Cops raid Sangram's press

Seize copies of Amar Desh, pick up 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka district administration, aided by Ramna police, last night raided the press and office of Bangla daily Sangram at the capital's Moghbazar for printing daily Amar Desh in last two days without the government permission.

Executive Magistrate Morarji Deshai led the raid from 11:00pm to 12:00am and seized 210 copies of Saturday's issue of Amar Desh and 5,000 copies of its Sunday issue from the Al-Falah Printing

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## Get rid of impasse

CPD dialogue calls for an end to destructive activities, framework for next polls, release of opposition leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue yesterday called for immediate cessation of destructive and subversive activities, release of opposition leaders from jail, and a framework for the next general elections.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the civil-society think-tank, said the destructive and subversive activities were affecting lives, properties and growth potential.

He continued: "There should be release of the opposition political leaders from jail to create an enabling environment for a dialogue. There should also be an announcement for a roadmap along with a framework

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## Unrest to hurt GDP

WB lowers growth forecast for Bangladesh, says hartals badly hit service sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has revised Bangladesh's growth forecast for fiscal 2012-13 down to 5.8 percent -- way below the government's target of 7.2 percent, due mainly to the precarious political situation.

A further escalation of the political tension, however, can take the GDP growth below the

forecasted 5.8 percent, Zahid Hussain, WB's lead economist, said yesterday at a press conference called for the release of the report, Bangladesh Development Update.

The reason being the severe blows the hartals deal to the service sector, which contributes to around 50 percent of the GDP.

"The losses to the manufacturing sector

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## HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

**JARWA HOUSE**

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