voicebox

"Those who failed to conduct an election during the last caretaker government after the 1/11 have no right to prescribe to us how to hold elections. Why should we listen to them?"

SHEIKH HASINA
prime minister
alleging civil societies of prescribing various formulas regarding an interim government to oversee the next election and avail themselves of undue benefits from those conspiring against the democratic system and the constitutional process.

"There's no point to assume tomorrow's hartal as the last one."

SHAMSUZZAMAN DUDU
advisor to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia
warning of more hartals to come following Wednesday's hartal in protest at the 'defamation' of the party's senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman.

"These are social investments. But none of these has any institutional foundation."

AMA MUHITH
finance minister
expresses his reservations about the social businesses launched by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh.

"I cannot presume to tell the people of Bangladesh or your leaders what issues demand attention, what wrongs must be righted, or what approach your country must take as it faces the grave challenges of the future. In Bangladesh, as in any democracy, this is for the people alone to decide."

WENDY R SHERMAN
US under secretary of state for political affairs
says during her visit in May.

"We are reaching a critical point in US-Bangladesh commercial relations."

JOSE FERNANDEZ
US assistant secretary for economic and business affairs
regarding workers' rights and safety standards in factories in the country.

"I will not be soft like my mother. I will stringently deal with factionalism."

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress vice-president
promising to be tougher than his mother in dealing with factionalism and indiscipline.