



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE
style**WOODWIND WIZARD**

In the build-up to Bengal fest, Star writes on Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia

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MORSI GOES ON TRIAL

Court adjourns as defendants chant "down with military coup"

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In the name of politics

THIS IS WHAT THEY DO TO PEOPLE

Usually we don't publish gory images. But today we are carrying this photo to stress how people fall prey to mindless political violence in our streets. In this partly pixelated picture, 14-year-old Monir, burned and blackened, sits dazed on the road as his father wails. The boy suffered severe burns all over his body when pro-hartal pickets set fire to his father's covered van on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday morning.

NOBODY'S*fault!*

It's the government agents who carry out such activities to defame

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM
BNP

Cadres of BNP-Jamaat, which has called the illogical hartal, are responsible for the

MAHBUBUL ALAM HANIF
AWAMI LEAGUE

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE

HARTAL EVE VIOLENCE 2013														Total		17 KILLED SO FAR STAR STATS
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov					
INJURED	7	69	447	14	5	0	29	51	55	1	3	681				
VEHICLES TORCHED	8	4	44	30	11	0	0	1	2	0	18	118				
VEHICLES VANDALISED	5	0	227	17	40	0	15	0	2	0	0	306				

AN APPEAL TO OUR HIGHER JUDICIARY

Save us from hartal, pre-hartal violence

MAHFUZ ANAM

**COMMENTARY**

the most trusted and revered organ of the state and the last refuge of

With due respect for our High Court and Appellate Division judges, we humbly draw their kind attention to our front page picture of 14-year old Monir and urge them to read his story and that of the 8-year old Shumi. Our appeal is extraordinary and we beg the courts' pardon. We have nowhere to turn to but to the custodians of our constitution of law and citizens' rights. We also appeal because higher judiciary is

helpless citizens.

Tragically there will not be any justice for Monir and Shumi and thousands like them. Police will draw up a huge list of randomly chosen suspects, arrest a few caught red-handed or obvious ones and for the rest, 'transactions' will take place, while the nation's attention shifts to other violence

PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

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Brutality beyond belief

Two kids, CNG driver left to cling on to their lives as mindless hartal pickets set vehicles on fire

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and ZYMA ISLAM

Monir is 14-year-old. Sumi is eight. Both live outside Dhaka. They came to see the capital and got critically injured in arson by pickets. The two kids are among the seven who fell victim to hartal violence from Sunday night till yesterday.

At least 50 of those killed and more than a

hundred of those wounded in attacks by pickets this year were not involved with any political party.

The recent series of attacks and blasts on innocents, especially the pain and suffering of the two kids, prompted The Daily Star to ask two major political leaders a question: how would they have felt about it all if they had not been

politicians?

Both the leaders condemned the activities like any other ordinary citizens and fathers.

When it came to taking responsibility of these incidents -- of Monir's pathetic state where he is hanging between life and death -- the two big shots came up with same old political rhetoric

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Tk 5,300

Minimum wage for garment workers fixed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A split garment workers' wage board yesterday voted and finalised its recommendation that Tk 5,300 should be the minimum salary for workers.

Factory owners, who are board members, however, rejected the proposed 76.66 percent minimum salary hike from the existing Tk 3,000.

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The new wage structure would take effect from November

Current minimum wage
Tk **3,000**

Workers proposed
Tk **8,114**

Owners proposed
Tk **4,250**

FORMING POLLS-TIME GOVT All ministers to resign in a week

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

All members of the current cabinet will resign in the next seven days to pave way for the formation of an all-party polls-time government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The decision came yesterday at a weekly cabinet meeting where several ministers elaborately discussed the issue with the premier.

"We have decided to tender resignation in the next seven days. The prime minister will then decide on the formation of the all-party government," a senior minister told The Daily Star after the meeting, asking not to be named.

On Saturday, minister without portfolio

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All-party actually four-party govt

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Formation of an all-party election-time government, as proposed by the prime minister, will not be possible at any rate as four of the eight parties having representation in parliament have rejected the offer.

The four parties -- BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Liberal Democratic Party -- of the 18-party opposition alliance have been demanding a non-party government for overseeing the general election.

Yesterday, the main opposition party made it clear once again that it would neither join the all-party administration nor take part in an election under such a government.

In such a situation, Sheikh Hasina will have to find MPs from her own party, the Awami League, and three other components of the AL-led alliance -- Jatiya Party, Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal -- to form a new cabinet.

In the December 29, 2008 general election, 38 registered political

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