



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star  
**Showbiz**



**LANKA ABUSE CLAIMS**

UK PM calls for probe, Colombo bars experts ahead of Commonwealth meet

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**HIS SERENE SANTOOR**

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

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## Govt goes tough on opposition

*3 senior BNP leaders, Khaleda's adviser Mintoo, aide Shimul held; violent protests in Ctg, Noakhali; hartal today in Noakhali, Comilla, Bhola, Pallabi area of Dhaka city*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar and Rafiqul Islam Miah were arrested yesterday, hours after the party-led opposition alliance announced a 72-hour countrywide hartal from tomorrow.

Detectives made the arrests as the trio came out of Hotel Sonargaon around 8:00pm attending the anniversary celebration of Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

Law enforcers also detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo and Special Assistant Shimul Biswas outside her Gulshan-2 home around 1:10am and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Vice-President Anwar Hossain Tipu in front of Jatiya Press Club around 12:15am today.

The detained were taken to the DB headquarters.

"They were arrested on specific allegations," State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku told The Daily Star. He, however, did not say what the allegations were.

Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu said the opposition leaders were arrested for instigating attacks on people and their properties.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi holding a press conference said the 72-hour hartal starting from



Moudud



MK Anwar



Rafiqul

tomorrow would be extended if the detained leaders were not released immediately.

He claimed that the arrests were made as part of the government plot to hold a one-party election.

Police last night also raided the homes of BNP leaders Jamiruddin Sircar, Mirza Abbas, Abdul Mannan and Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Moazzem Hossain Alal, and Nasiruddin Ashim.

After the arrests, BNP-Jamaat activists vandalised and torched vehicles in the capital, Chittagong and in Noakhali.

At least 25 vehicles were damaged and seven others burned at Barab Kunda, Kumira and Sitakunda of Chittagong around 10:45pm, reports our correspondent there.

The agitating BNP-Jamaat activists also blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway between Sitakunda and Faujdarhat, leaving many vehicles stranded.

Around 11:15pm, police fired several bullets to disperse the agitating BNP-Jamaat men. But the agitators were fighting back.

In the capital, BNP-Jamaat men vandalised three buses -- one at Mirpur-12, one near Sonargaon intersection and another at Arambagh around 11:15pm.

Unidentified criminals exploded two

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Students sit a Junior School Certificate examination on the weekend yesterday, as the JSC and junior Dakhil exams had to be rescheduled because of a 60-hour hartal last week. Adding to the anxieties of these young kids, the opposition has called another long hartal from tomorrow. It means the remaining exams too would have to be rearranged.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Trapped in turmoil

*Already suffered for 2 weeks, people brace for a fresh 72-hr hartal from tomorrow; JSC exams uncertain again; businesses in trouble*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businesses, examinations and public life go into disarray once again from tomorrow morning, thanks to the 72-hour countrywide hartal called by the BNP-led 18-party alliance to press home its demand for a non-party polls-time government.

The fresh shutdown call came yesterday, hard on the heels of the opposition's 120 hours of shutdown in less than two weeks and amid calls from the government, business leaders and foreign diplomats to shun hartal.

The already affected 20 lakh Junior School Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate examinees, whose two tests were postponed because of last week's hartal, are set to suffer more.

Six of their tests will fall within the shutdown, which ends on Wednesday morning. Eight exams of O- and A-levels will also coincide with the hartal.

Education ministry sources said the decision on whether the JSC and JDC exams would be deferred would come today. Education board sources, however, said it was highly likely that the tests would be postponed.

"It is utterly disgusting. Deferring exams again and again hampers our preparation," says Mrityika Byron, a JSC examinee of Viqarunnisa Noon School.

Her mother, Anjuman Ara, shares her disgust and frustration.

"Politicians say they do politics for people. Then

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**NEWS ANALYSIS**

## Polls campaign in disguise

*PM seeks vote for AL while opening development projects one after another*

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has officially been visiting different districts using all government facilities to not only inaugurate or lay foundation stones of different development projects but also to electioneer for her party.

The implementation of many of these projects will begin next year although her government's tenure ends in three months. But in a clever move she has been laying the foundation stones to drum up

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Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus shakes hands with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak yesterday during the Global Social Business Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

## Social business can change the world

*Malaysian PM praises Yunus' concept*

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN, from Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammad Najib Razak has showered Bangladeshi Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus with praises for developing the concept of social business that, Razak believes, can change the world for the better.

"You have launched a very powerful idea -- an idea that can change the world," he said at the Global Social Business Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia yesterday.

"It seems a very workable model to me because it complements the traditional

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## Quest for saving millions

*Bangladesh-origin Briton in the team of scientists making universal vaccine for all types of influenzas*

REAZ AHMAD

Scientists in the United Kingdom who have made a recent breakthrough in developing a universal vaccine to fight all forms of influenzas have a Bangladesh-origin Briton, Shaima Begom, in their team.

Shaima works at the Respiratory Infections Section of the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London under the tutelage of Prof Ajit Lalvani.

In exclusive email interviews with The Daily Star both Prof Ajit and Shaima explained how their research in the last four years had brightened the prospect of developing a universal vaccine that would safeguard people from every form of flu attacks.

Prof Ajit and his team started the research during the 2009 swine flu pandemic and have just come up with a blueprint for developing a universal flu vaccine. A report on their study findings was published in the Nature Medicine journal in September attracting wide attention of the global medical fraternity.

Seasonal flu vaccines rapidly become useless and new ones are needed every year as the influenza virus is a constantly shifting target.

The prize of the outcome of Ajit-Shaima team could be huge. Seasonal flu kills between 2,50,000 and 5,00,000 people every year and new pandemics have the potential to take doctors by surprise and kill large number of people.

In Ajit's words, "New strains of flu are continuously emerging, some of which are deadly, and so we need to create a universal vaccine that would be effective against all strains of flu."

Prof Ajit, who is also the chair of the Infectious Diseases and Founding Director of the Tuberculosis Research Centre of Imperial College, narrated that his team had recruited 342 staff and students at Imperial College London to take part in the flu study in 2009.

The goal was to determine why some people seem to resist severe illness when exposed to flu bugs. Ajit and his team discovered that people who caught the flu but had

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## JU teachers halt demo

*President asks authorities to hold VC panel polls*

JU CORRESPONDENT

The agitating Jahangirnagar University teachers yesterday postponed their movement after the chancellor issued a directive to the VC for arranging the senate election to nominate a VC panel soon.

They announced the decision at a press conference at the VC's residence around 5:00pm, saying the VC would have to announce a schedule for senate election to nominate the panel by tomorrow.

The teachers will return to teaching in classrooms and hold examinations regularly from today [Saturday], Prof Kamrul Ahsan, member secretary of Sadharan Shikkhak Forum, told newsmen.

Ending the VC's confinement in his residence, Prof Kamrul said they would go for a new course of action if the VC

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MAKING AUDIT REPORT PUBLIC

## EC seeks political parties' opinions

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The Election Commission (EC) has sought opinions from registered political parties on making their audit reports public.

In separate letters, the EC on October 29 asked the parties to give their opinions within 15 working days.

"If your party's response is not received within the stipulated time, it will be understood that you have no objection to making the reports public," said the letters to the general secretaries of the parties.

The EC sent letters to 37 of the 40 registered political parties, as two of them have recently got their registrations while the High Court on August 1 declared Jamaat-e-Islami's registration with the EC illegal.

The move to seek opinions came following an Information Commission (IC) directive on October 22. The IC suggested that the EC make the audit reports of all registered political parties public through its website considering it as public document.

On June 6, Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of civil society platform Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik, had asked one of the information officers of the EC to provide him the audit reports of all political parties.

But the officer instead requested Majumdar to collect the reports from

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Bangladesh-origin Briton Shaima Begom, right, working at the respiratory infections section of the National Heart and Lung Institute of Imperial College London. She is part of a team, led by Prof Ajit Lalvani, inset, trying to develop a vaccine that would protect people from all influenzas.

PHOTO: COURTESY