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HARTAL IMPACT

Trucks, vans hike fares ahead of the 84-hr shutdown from today

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MPS TO GRILL RUSBRIDGER

Guardian editor is to explain publication of intelligence files leaked by Snowden

PAGE 8

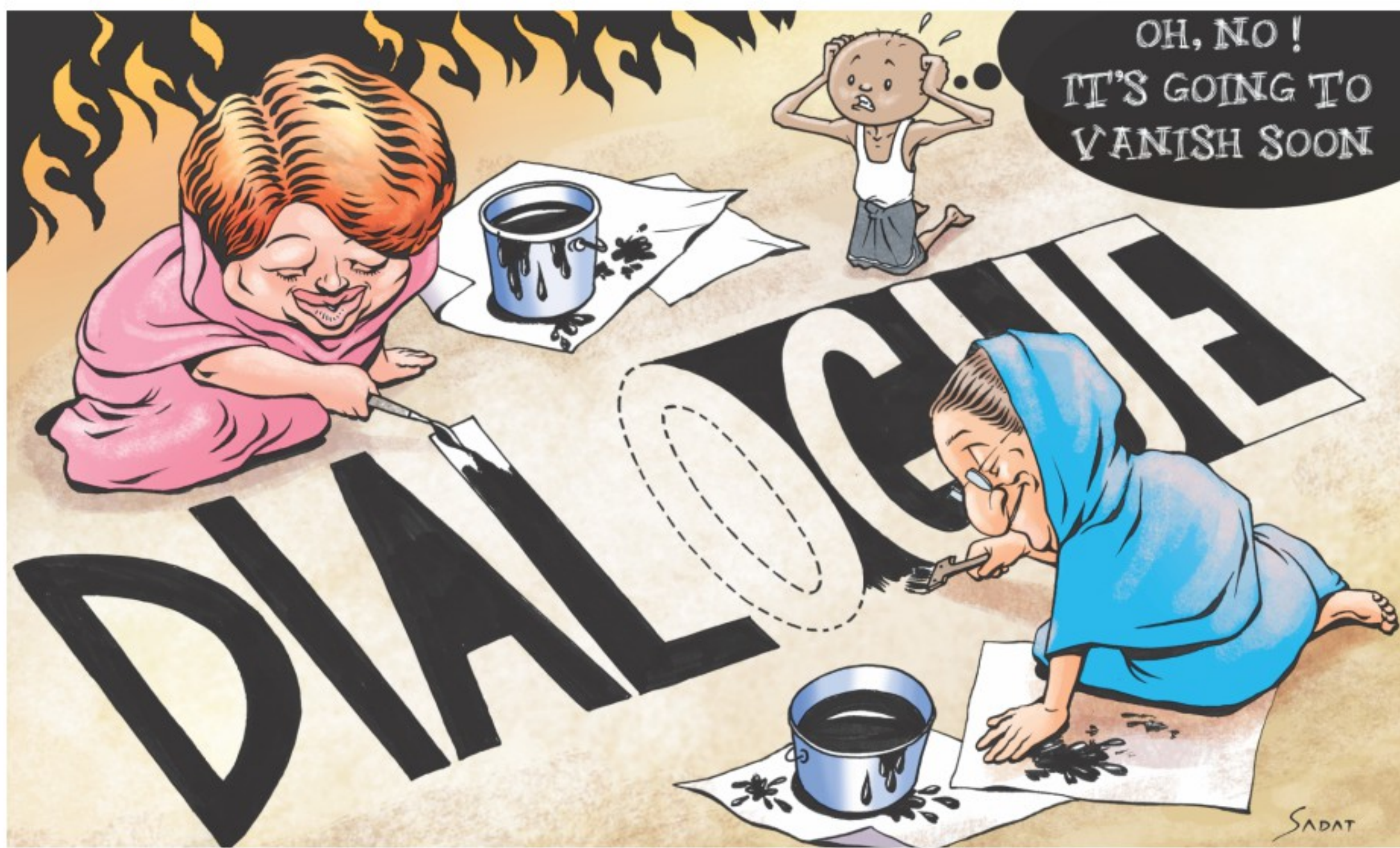
Cops crowd outside Khaleda's residence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the BNP leaders have gone into hiding after Friday night's arrest of five leaders, while the police have increased their presence around BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's residence and office.

Alongside a large number of plainclothes policemen, some female cops were also seen in front of the BNP chief's Gulshan-2 residence yesterday.

Explaining the
SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



HARTAL TILL 6:00PM WEDNESDAY

Country looks down the barrel of a gun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition alliance has extended its three-day countrywide hartal from today by 12 hours in protest at the arrest of its top leaders on Friday.

Called to press for a non-party polls-time government, the shutdown will now end at 6:00pm on Wednesday, making it an 84-hour shutdown, the longest during this government's tenure.

This will leave only one working day this week. The previous week saw only two working days due to a 60-hour shutdown.

Many people were seen leaving the capital yesterday for their village homes nearby,

mostly to stay away from possible violence in the next four days.

The BNP high-ups are planning to enforce a five-day countrywide hartal from November 17 to protest "the repression and wholesale arrest of opposition leaders", sources in the party told The Daily Star.

The 18-party opposition combine had enforced hartals for 120 hours in the previous two weeks. The fresh shutdown comes amid calls from the government, business leaders and foreign diplomats to shun hartal.

Announcing the extension of the shutdown, BNP Joint Secretary General
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Solution-brokers in depths of despair

Diplomatic circle frustrated;
US, India still active

REZAUL KARIM

As the government and the opposition stubbornly cruise on the path of collision ignoring all calls for talks, the European countries and other international organisations that sought to broker a way out are now distancing themselves from the crisis.

Their frustration was openly manifested in the British high commissioner's state-

ment yesterday.

"I am disappointed that we have seen continued confrontational action rather than constructive dialogue between the two main parties that could result in the outcome desired by most ordinary Bangladeshis: free, fair and credible elections in which all parties participate," said Robert W Gibson, the British high

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Talks in tatters

Marathon hartal, govt's
excesses virtually end hope
for political breakthrough

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The arrest of some senior opposition leaders has led many Awami League and BNP leaders to believe that the window for talks is now closed and the government would hold the next polls in early January even if the main opposition does not take part.

This is set to make the political situation more volatile in the coming days as Sheikh Hasina and her archrival Khaleda Zia seem to be bent on standing their ground.

BNP-led 18-party opposition combine chief Khaleda may call for more blockades and hartals in the days to come

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

A double-decker burns at Jatrabari yesterday. With the opposition's 84-hour shutdown beginning this morning, pre-hartal violence left several vehicles torched and many more vandalised across the capital.

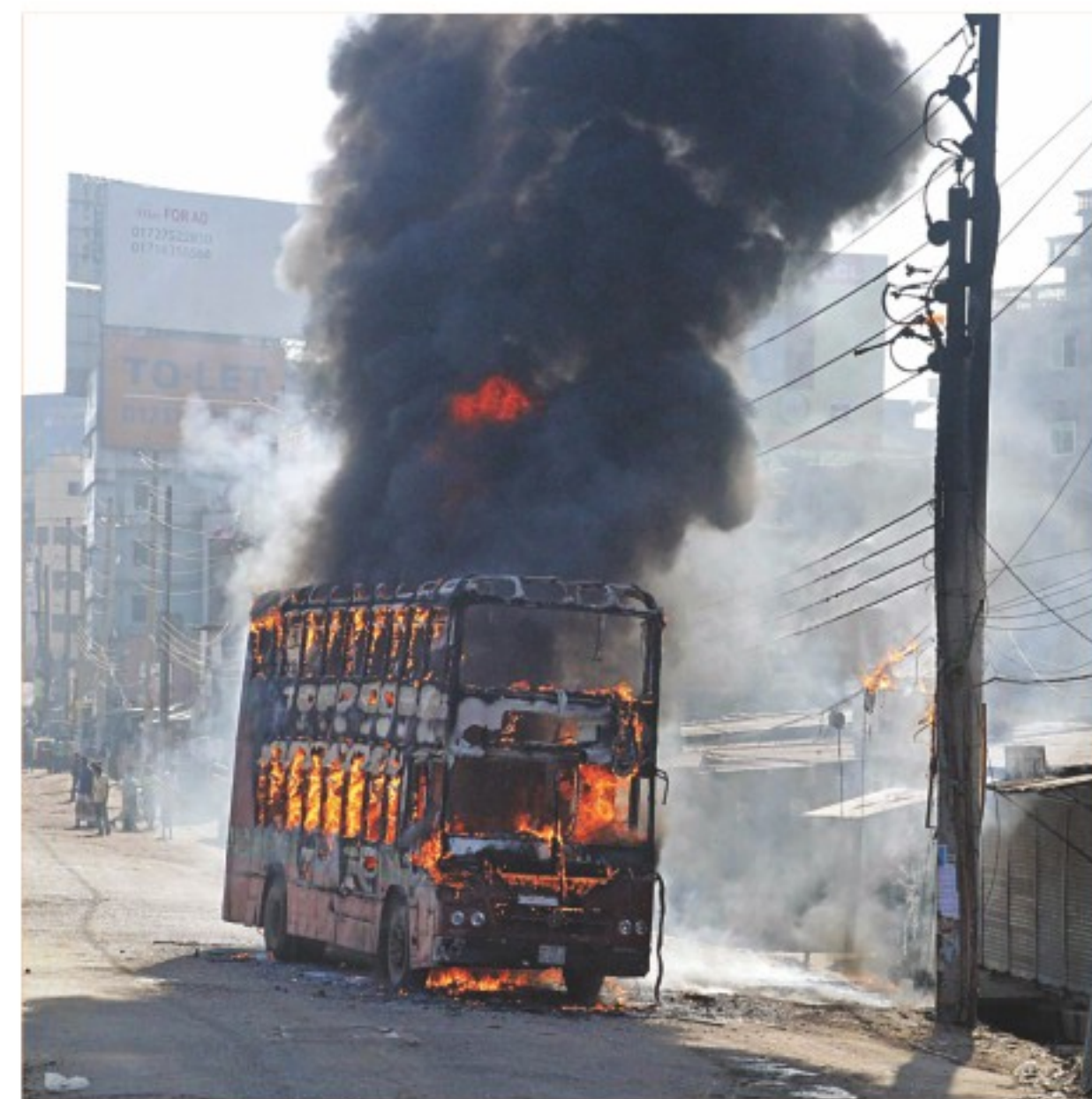


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