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# The Daily Star

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**ONE MORE CHANCE**  
Saudi Arabia extends amnesty offer for illegal migrants, including Bangladeshis  
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Analysts blame the increase on political unrest  
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Venezuelan beauty clinches the diamond crown  
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**9 more burnt in hartal arson**  
*One killed trying to outrun pickets in Ctg, over 120 hurt*  
STAR REPORT

Hartal and pre-hartal violence has left at least one person dead, nine people burnt and over 120 people injured. Pro-hartal pickets hurled a petrol bomb inside a packed human haulier, burning six of its passengers in Laxmi Bazar of Old Dhaka around 9:00pm yesterday, the first day of the opposition's 84-hour shutdown. The injured were rushed to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Of them, Montu Chandra Paul, 32, a jeweller by profession, has suffered burns on around 90 percent of his body. The other injured are Kamal Hossain with nearly 25 percent of his body burnt, Muktar Mondol with 15 percent and Sagor Das, Mintu Das, Swapna Mondol and Mukta Mondol with less than five percent. After the horrifying death of 14-year-old Monir on Thursday, who was burnt by pickets in Gazipur, 13-year-old Ronny and 10-year-old Shimul became the latest child victims of arson carried out in similar fashion.

## RIVALRY ON OPPOSITE POLES



Ruling Awami League leaders and activists celebrate, left, in front of their party office on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday after party ticket aspirants bought nomination forms for the 10th parliamentary elections. In stark contrast, police stand guard in front of the BNP office in Nayapaltan, barring leaders' and activists' access to the office. There are only two people in the office, an office assistant and BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, who has practically been living there for at least two weeks. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Hero Siddikur**  
Golfer clinches Indian Open in style



ATIQUE ANAM  
Siddikur Rahman, the flag-bearer of Bangladesh golf, claimed his second Asian Tour Title when he beat SSP Chowrasia and Anirban Lahiri of India by a single stroke in a tense final day of the Hero Indian Open at the Delhi Golf Club yesterday. The 29-year-old Siddikur, who had become the first Bangladeshi golfer to win on the Asian Tour when he lifted the Brunei Open in 2010, carded three-over-par (75) on the last day for an aggregate of 14-under (274), just enough to give him one shot victory. The win fetched Siddikur \$225,000 of prize money, taking his season's earnings to \$449,167

**Siddikur Rahman**  
SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

**ACC toothless**  
*Anti-graft body can no longer sue govt officials on its own*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Ignoring all criticism, and recommendations of a parliamentary committee, the House yesterday passed a bill introducing a controversial provision that requires the ACC to take the government's permission before filing graft cases against public officials. More than two and half years ago, the government placed the bill in parliament, proposing some changes in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act, incorporating a proposal for introducing the controversial provision. Back then, the bill took a lot of flak and the government apparently backtracked on it. Now at the fag end of its tenure and ahead of the next parliamentary election, the government introduces the provision that curbs the ACC's authority to file cases against government officials. Sultana Kamal, chairperson of Transparency International Bangladesh Trustee Board, termed the provision "unconstitutional" and "unfair" as it offers protection to a special group. "Government officials should be made more accountable as they deal with public money," she told The Daily Star yesterday. In defence of this provision, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

**10,000 killed in super typhoon**

Fear Philippines officials; Vietnam evacuates 600,000; China on high alert  
AFP, Tacloban  
The death toll from a super typhoon that decimated entire towns in the Philippines could soar well over 10,000, authorities warned yesterday, making it the country's worst recorded natural disaster. The horrifying estimates came as rescue workers appeared overwhelmed in their efforts to help countless survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan, which sent tsunami-like waves and merciless winds rampaging across a huge chunk of the archipelago on Friday. Hundred of police and soldiers were deployed to contain looters in Tacloban, the devastated provincial capital of Leyte, while the United States announced it had responded to a Philippine government appeal and would send military help. "Tacloban is totally destroyed. Some people are losing SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 MORE ON PAGE 8

**AL cheers, BNP jeers**

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN  
The scenes were starkly opposite in the two rival camps. Fanfare and exuberance were clearly visible at the Awami League office in the capital, as the ruling party started selling nomination papers for the next general elections yesterday. On the other hand, fear and tension ran high at the BNP's Nayapaltan office, as the party leaders were worried about possible arrests and carrying forward the ongoing movement. This more or less depicts the current political situation that has already heated up over the next general election. By opening the sale of nomination papers, the AL has given the BNP a clear signal that it cares little about the SEE PAGE 11 COL 4 AL STARTS NOMINATION PROCESS - PAGE 3



Police fire teargas canisters at opposition activists engaged in a running battle at City Gate area of Chittagong city during hartal yesterday. Inset, Criminals cut off a chunk of a rail line near Iswardi station in Pabna.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS/STAR

**Nirmal's last trip to workplace**

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg  
Nirmal Das, who worked at the medical section of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC), yesterday left for work around 7:30am as always. He boarded a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Madunaghat with three other passengers. Little did he know that it would be his last trip to his workplace, about 22 kilometres off. As soon as the three-wheeler hit the Niyamat Ali road at Hathazari upazila, pro-hartal pickets appeared out of nowhere and started hurling brick chips at the vehicle, said Nitai Das, one of the fellow passengers. The driver tried to speed off but lost control of the vehicle. Nirmal landed on the ground as the auto-rickshaw. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



**Hartal pushes up prices of essentials**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Supply disruption caused by the 84-hour countrywide shutdown has started pushing up prices of essentials in city markets despite a sharp fall in customer turnout yesterday for fear of violence. The prices of beans, eggplants, green chillies, onions, cauliflowers, cabbages, bitter gourds, tomatoes, pointed gourds and papayas climbed by Tk 5 to Tk 20 a kilogram. "These are essential foods. I have to purchase them in spite of the price rise," said a frustrated Mohammad Shahabuddin after buying radish, beans and some other vegetables yesterday at higher prices from roadside vendors in Wari. However, not everyone gave in to the demands of the retailers. Some were seen engaging in tough bargaining with the sellers. Mohammad Mithun, who resides in a mess in Old Dhaka, became annoyed after the retailer demanded Tk 100 for per kilogram of green chilli. "How can prices go up by Tk 20-30 overnight? This is grossly opportunistic," he told Shahidullah, the retailer. Mithun suspects retailers were hoarding stock yesterday so that they can sell at higher SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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