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TODAY'S HARTAL

Test for 20-party, worry for public

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

What happened in Gazipur centring Khaleda Zia's rally seems to be a dress rehearsal for a face-off between the two major political rivals from January.

The latest political development has given rise to worries among people who fear a return of street violence and shut-downs.

However, BNP men remain demoralised for the party's organisational weakness and lack of consistency in the high command's strategy for forging agitations against the government.

Even today's countrywide shutdown by the BNP-led alliance appears to be another test for them. The combine leaders are doubtful whether their activists can take to the streets to enforce the hartal or they have to see a repeat of the Gazipur scenes.

But frustration in its rival camp has made the ruling Awami League feel upbeat.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who asserted that she would join the Gazipur rally defying all obstacles, suddenly backtracked from her stance.

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Tanjimul's arm being bandaged at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. He along with his mother, inset, and sister was returning to their Mirpur home from the doctor's when criminals torched their auto-rickshaw at Kazipara in the capital, on the eve of a nationwide hartal.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Call off hartal

FBCCI, MCCI urge 20-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The FBCCI and the MCCI, two leading trade bodies in the country, have opposed today's nationwide hartal called by the BNP-led alliance, for such programmes disrupt the economy and business activities.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry urged the opposition

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POLITICIANS, BUREAUCRATS, OTHER HIGH-UPS

BB to monitor income sources, transactions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a step to prevent money laundering, banks would be monitoring income sources of senior politicians, bureaucrats, judicial and military officials, and senior officials of international organisations.

Their bank transactions and accounts of their family members and close associates would also be monitored regularly,

said Bangladesh Bank in a circular yesterday.

The central bank ordered banks to monitor "politically exposed" and influential people.

The notice said politically exposed people were "individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, for example heads of state or of government, senior politicians, senior government, judicial or military officials, senior

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Fog disrupts ferry services

Mercury up slightly

STAR REPORT

Although the overall temperature increased, thick fog blanketed most parts of the country yesterday, which disrupted normal life and caused suspension of water vessel services on Paturia-Daulatdia and Shimulia-Kawrakandi routes.

The situation is unlikely to change in

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KIBRIA MURDER CASE

Clashes after Habiganj mayor sent to jail

STAR REPORT

At least 40 people, including six policemen, were injured in clashes between BNP activists and the law enforcers in Habiganj yesterday after municipality mayor Golam Kibria Gaus was sent to jail in former finance minister SAMS Kibria murder case.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Rokeya Akhtar passed the order after Gaus, also the district BNP general

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think, time and again our authorities show that they lack proper sense of their responsibilities and technical know-how?

Yes (97%)

No (3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 193

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda that the country is witnessing an elected autocracy in the guise of democracy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

New Noah's Ark with frozen DNA

MAIL ONLINE

A Russian university is planning to create a 'Noah's Ark' consisting of the frozen DNA of every creature that has ever lived.

Moscow State University has received the country's largest-ever scientific grant to embark on the project, which is scheduled to be completed by 2018 and will be based in a 430sq km site on campus.

The institute, which has received 1billion rubles (£12.6million) to help get it off the ground, aims to cryogenically freeze and store cells which are capable of reproducing.

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