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Booters brighten chance for gold

MADRAS, Dec 25: Bangladesh qualified for the SAF Games football final after six years beating Sri Lanka 5-4 in the tie-breaker in the first semi-final at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here today, reports UNB.

The nerve-racking match crawled to penalty shoot-out after the regulation 90 minutes and the extra 30 minutes ended goalless.

Winger Raquib, substitute striker Imtiaz Ahmed Naquib, Mamun Joarder, medio Arman and Masud Rana scored for Bangladesh in the tie-breaker.

But the tie-breaking ceremony began on a dismal note for Bangladesh when Jewel Rana shot outside in the opening salvo and veteran Manik's fourth shot was foiled by the Lankan goalie.

The first five shots were locked 3-3.

With the victory in the semis, Bangladesh soccer team made a step forward towards fulfilling their dream of winning the SAF gold, so far remained elusive in the last six meets.

Bangladesh, led by Monem Munna on the field and swimming.

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Marksmen keep it up

MADRAS, Dec 25: Bangladesh earned two more golds in the 7th SAF Games shooting today as they made a clean sweep in men's free rifles three position at the Veerapuram Shooting Range, reports UNB.

This raised Bangladesh's tally of gold in the Games to seven. Earlier, Bangladesh won three golds in shooting and one each in athletics and swimming.



Mamun Joarder (L), the industrious Bangladeshi linkman heads during a midfield tussle in yesterday's SAF Games soccer semifinal against Sri Lanka at the Nehru Stadium in Madras. Bangladesh reached the final eliminating their opponents 5-4 on penalties. — TV photo

Hockey: Nepal crushed 1-11

MADRAS, Dec 25: Bangladesh national hockey team recorded their first ever big-margin victory in an international meet thrashing new face Nepal by 11-1 goals in the 7th SAF Games at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium today, reports UNB.

Dominating the match all through, Bangladesh never allowed the Nepalese in their danger zone and led the first half 4-0 in a one-sided affair.

Nepal conceded 53 goals against only two in their credit on completion of all four matches.

In the day's match, Rafiqul Alam Kamal, a player of Dhaka Usha KC, struck four goals with a hat-trick.

Skipper Mamunur Rashid and famed striker Mohammad Sadek netted two goals

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Medals table

MADRAS, Dec 25: Following is the final medal tally in the SAF Games here today:

Country	G	S	B	Total
India	84	54	19	157
Sri Lanka	16	21	45	82
Bangladesh	7	10	23	40
Nepal	4	6	7	17
Pakistan	3	23	29	55
Maldives	0	0	1	1
Total	114	114	124	352



Auto-rickshaw drivers damaging a bus in Motijheel area in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Auto-rickshaw drivers go on rampage

By Staff Correspondent

Auto-rickshaw drivers and owners went on an unannounced strike and rampage in the city yesterday, clashing with police protesting seizure of this vehicles for plying without valid documents.

At least 100 vehicles was damaged and half a dozen police vans were attacked during chase and counter-chase between police and stick-wielding auto-rickshaw drivers and owners at several places including Syedabad, Malibagh, Motijheel, Dilkusha and Dainik Bangal crossing.

There was however no report of injury of any person.

Bus and minibus services were also forced off the roads due to the strike and clashes.

Stick-wielding auto-rickshaw workers were seen moving in groups and small processions, raising their fists shouting anti-government slogans and taking their wrath on buses and minibuses in the morning.

They damaged buses, trucks and private cars indiscriminately at Mirpur, Shamoly, Farmgate, Maghbazar, Malibagh and at some other parts of the city.

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Nine Ukrainian crew interrogated India forces down Nepal-bound plane

NEW DELHI, Dec 25: Authorities here have forced down another Russian-built transport plane in Indian airspace, days after an Antonov-26 was seized on suspicion of carrying weapons, officials said here today, reports AFP.

Aviation authorities ordered the AN-26 aircraft to land at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Sunday afternoon when its pilot said he did not have clearance to overfly India, they said.

The plane was flying from the Pakistani city of Karachi to the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu, officials quoted the impounded plane's pilot as saying.

"We asked the plane to abort its trip to Kathmandu and return to Karachi but when the pilot said he did not have enough fuel to go back, we force-landed the aircraft here," one official said.

Air force bases here

were put on standby after the twin-engined Antonov was spotted on military radars entering Indian airspace at around 2:00 pm (0830 GMT) Sunday.

AP adds: Authorities today were questioning nine Ukrainian crew members of a cargo plane that was forced to land in New Delhi after an unauthorised flight.

In interrogation, the crew reportedly told investigators the plane was carrying helicopter spare parts to Nepal.

The incident came after Indian jet fighters scrambled to force another Russian-built AN-26 cargo plane to land in Bombay on Friday.

Sunday's action came close on the heels of the seizure on Friday of an AN-26 in Bombay and the arrest of its six crew members on charges of air-dropping crates of weapons in the eastern Indian town of Puri.

Police said the six "mercenaries" on the trans-

port plane, forced to land in Bombay by air force jet fighters while on a flight for Karachi, had confessed to dropping the consignment of weapons estimated to be worth 10 million dollars.

Bombay police had charged the crew members with sedition, which carries the death sentence, and violating the arms act.

PTI adds: The police recovered more arms from villagers at three Purulia villages today, seven days after the Russian AN-26 aircraft dropped a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

One rocket-propelled gun, 7107 ammunition, one rocket launcher, one hand grenade and seven empty magazines were seized by the police.

Meanwhile, all six foreigners and five 'Avadhuts' (roving monks) of the Ananda Marg, arrested yesterday in connection with the arms airdrop, were today remanded in police custody.

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Pro-Islamic Welfare Party wins Turkish polls

ANKARA, Dec 25: Turkey's Islamists were confirmed today as the winners of Sunday's general polls with 21.32 per cent of the vote, state television TRT-1 said, report agencies.

TRT-1 said the Islamist Welfare Party (RP) had won 158 seats in parliament, while Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) won 135 seats with 19.20 per cent.

The opposition Motherland party (ANAP) edged ahead of Ciller on percentages with 19.66 per cent but took 132 seats in accordance with Turkey's proportional representation system, it added.

The Islamists, hanging on veteran leader Necmettin Erbakan's every word, today celebrated their success at

weekend general elections in an impromptu early morning burst of flag-waving and chanting.

"Prime Minister Erbakan, holy warrior Erbakan," shouted a crowd of about 1,000 supporters in the garden of the Welfare Party (RP) headquarters in Ankara.

Welfare took the highest number of seats in the 550-member parliament after Sunday's polls but a wafer-thin margin left it with the hard task of finding a coalition partner from among the secularist parties.

It seemed likely conservative parties would form a coalition to keep Welfare out of power.

"The nation has shown the depiction as a monster by the media. This is joy that has been delayed for 70 years," Islamist Fatih Yilmaz said. Turkey was founded as a

bakan told reporters inside the building, referring to forthcoming coalition talks expected to take several weeks.

His comments were relayed via loudspeaker to the crowd waiting outside which erupted in cheering as he read out results showing the Islamists ahead.

Welfare favours pulling 99 per cent Muslim but secular Turkey out of NATO and renegotiating a recent customs union pact with the European union, which it has termed as part of a western plot to economically enslave the Muslim world.

"We have won despite being depicted as a monster by the media. This is joy that has been delayed for 70 years," Islamist Fatih Yilmaz said. Turkey was founded as a



Pro-Islamist Turkish Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan, holding election results gestures while conferring with party members at their headquarters in Ankara yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

ANKARA, Dec 25: Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said today she was resigning after her conservative party lost weekend general elections to Islamists. "I will now go to president (Suleyman) Demirel and present my resignation," she told a news conference, reports Reuter.

strictly secular republic from the ashes of the Ottoman empire in 1923.

Iran voiced satisfaction today at the victory of the pro-Islamic Welfare (Refah) party in the Turkish legislative election, saying it was a triumph for Islam over secularism.

With 159 seats in the new 550-member parliament, Welfare will fall far short of the absolute majority of 276 that it needs to form a government.

"No one expects an immediate political change in Turkey," the radio acknowledged. But "the development is enough to unsettle those who believe the poll's outcome would create confrontation between religious tendencies and secularism."

Opposition's mass-contact programme from today

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day mass-contact programme of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami begins across the country today.

The programme is part of the Opposition's 10-day agitation demanding parliamentary polls under a neutral caretaker government.

The series of fresh agitation programmes, announced simultaneously by the three parties on December 18, is scheduled to culminate in a nationwide 48-hour hartal on January 3 and 4, the dates for filing and scrutiny respectively of nomination papers for the February 7 polls.

During the mass-contact programmes, opposition leaders would visit and address public rallies at the district headquarters.

Quake jolts Australia, Indonesian islands

SYDNEY, Dec 25: A strong offshore earthquake jolted large areas of northern Australia today, a seismological official said, but no damage or injuries were immediately reported, says AFP.

The earthquake also jolted the eastern Indonesian islands in the Banda Sea but initial reports spoke of only limited damage, the Meteorology and Geophysics office in Jakarta said.

Residents in northern Australia said shock waves lasting more than 20 seconds shook homes and high-rise buildings and rattled plates as people were eating their Christmas dinner.

"It was a pretty big one, not your everyday event," said Ken Muirhead of the Australian Seismological Centre in Canberra.

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Posters, graffiti File cases : EC

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday directed thana, district and police administration to file cases against such person or persons who have not destroyed or removed multi-colour posters or banners or arches by Monday, reports BSS.

The commission said action will be taken against violators of the representation of People's Order, 1972 after December 25.

The commission reiterated its call to all concerned to refrain from acts which will violate the Representation of People's Order.

Clause 73 of the Order prescribed a maximum of 7 years and minimum 2 years imprisonment with fine for the violators. Persons accused of such violation could be arrested with non-bailable warrant.

Meanwhile on the fifth day of the country-wide illegal arms recovery drive for ensuring free and fair Jatiya Sangsad elections, the law enforcing agencies yesterday recovered 51 different types of firearms, 163 bullets and 45 explosives, according to an Election Commission press release.

Seven-hundred and seven persons were arrested on charges of possessing the illegal arms and ammunition and other offences during the drive ending this morning.

Another report says, Kotowali police recovered a country-made revolver and two rounds of bullets from Nawabpur road area.

Three unidentified youths ran away after leaving the arms and ammunition when a police patrol vehicle chased them at Golok Pal Lane.

More deportees from KSA due today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 25: The fourth batch of 1910 Bangladeshi deportees from Saudi Arabia is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow afternoon on board a chartered vessel, Al Madina, official sources said today.

The ship carrying the deportees will anchor at jetty No. 1 of Chittagong Port. All preparations are afoot to receive the deportees, the sources said.

Earlier, another chartered vessel Mecca-1 brought three batches of deportees from Saudi Arabia which included a total of 4,861 persons.

Saudi Arabia deported the first batch of Bangladeshi expatriates numbering 1963 on March 17, the second batch of 1870 on July 10 and the third batch of 1028 on October 24.

Saudi Arabia this year started a drive against foreign

expatriates who were staying there illegally and during the drive around 20,000 Bangladeshi were rounded up, the sources said.

However according to Bangladeshi expatriates who returned already, many persons with legal papers were also rounded up from various parts of Saudi Arabia and deported to Bangladesh.

Ferry service becomes normal

MANIKGANJ, Dec 25: Ferry service across the Padma and Jamuna returned to normal today in a dramatic improvement of the lingering river traffic disarray, reports UNB.

BHWT sources said some 4,000 vehicles were ferried in last 37 hours till 6 pm today, clearing the traffic jam

13pc increase in export earning

By Govinda Shil

Export earnings during the July-September quarter of the current fiscal (1995-96) was Tk 4,183 crore, showing a 13.47 per cent increase over that of last fiscal's corresponding period.

The earnings were 8.74 per cent more than the target for the period, said sources in the Export Promotion Bureau.

Earnings from garments were Tk 240 crore, showing 11.85 per cent increase over the target for the period and 16.07 per cent over that of the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

During the period, the overall price index increased by 4.69 per cent. Price of tea increased by 18.18 per cent and that of garments by 6.78 per cent.

Exports of knits and hosiery showed a remarkable growth of 51.99 per cent over that of the same period of the last fiscal year and 34.75 per cent over the target. The target for the July-September period this year was Tk 384.50 crore while the export earning was Tk 518.40 crore.

A senior EPB official while talking to this correspondent said efforts are on to explore market in South Africa, and in the CIS and Scandinavian countries.

Mob, Jamaat clash in Comilla: 20 hurt

COMILLA, Dec 25: At least 20 people were injured, five seriously, in a clash between a group of angry people and the activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami in Langolkot thana today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted after some Jamaat activists allegedly swooped on a local Chhatra League (SPL) leader Alamgir Majumdar in front of the TNO office at about noon.

Alamgir took shelter inside the TNO office following attack by the Jamaat workers

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