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# Double blow

## Poll deposits of 900 forfeited for poor results

**SHAKHAWAT LITON and SHARIFUL ISLAM**

As many as 900 candidates, out of 1,555, have lost their security deposits for poor performance despite a record turnout in the ninth parliamentary elections.

No candidate of 30 political parties, registered with the Election Commission (EC), could make it to the next parliament, which means that only eight political parties will have representatives in the parliament.

Apart from candidates of minor political parties, most of the 148 independent candidates and a number of nominees of BNP, AL, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami lost their security deposits.

As per the electoral laws, a candidate must secure minimum one-eighth of the total votes to save his or her security money, deposited while filing nomination papers.

In the 2001 parliamentary elections, a total of 1,939 candidates contested



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# 82 hurt in post-polls violence

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 82 people, mostly the activists and supporters of BNP, were injured in post-election violence in seven districts Tuesday night and yesterday.

Reports from different districts said over 20 people were injured in Patuakhali while 10 in Khulna, 12 in Kishoreganj, 14 in Satkhira, 15 in Thakurgaon, 10 in Natore and one at Jagangirnagar University.

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# Send in rigging info

## BNP asks grassroots; oath decision after checking those

**RASHIDUL HASAN**

BNP has asked its grassroots leaders to send evidence of 'vote rigging' in Monday's general election to the party chairperson's office on the basis of which it will fix its next course of action, party sources said yesterday.

In the wake of the party's debacle in the poll, party chief Khaleda Zia early yesterday said the election was stage-managed and farcical, and so its results were not acceptable.

"We are yet to decide on taking a hard line on issues like oath taking of members and participation in parliament session," BNP standing committee member RA Ghani told The Daily Star last night.

"We have asked the party men across the country to send evidence of vote rigging to work our next course of action," said

# Special courts to be shifted from JS area

## COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to shift 10 special courts set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises to try the country's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
January 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



# Rare civet caught at Ramna Park

## STAR REPORT

A large Indian Civet was yesterday caught at Ramna Park in the city by morning walkers who captured the rare animal after chasing it into the lake in the park.

The globally vulnerable and locally endangered animal was then shackled and the different officials informed of the matter.

The animal meanwhile injured itself while trying to free itself from the shackle. When a team from The Daily Star team reached the place, the animal with its magnificent black and

The large Indian Civet caught at Ramna Park yesterday. The animal is rare for Bangladesh, experts say. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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# WE MOURN



**Mr. M. Yunus, FCA**, a renowned Chartered Accountant of the Country and Vice Chairman of Phoenix Finance & Investments Limited passed away on 30 December, 2008 at Apollo Hospital, Dhaka at 10.00 p.m. (Innah..... Rajiun). His sad demise is a great loss to his family and Phoenix Finance & Investments Limited as well. We are deeply shocked at his sudden death and express our heartfelt condolence and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul and eternal peace in the best of Heavens.

All Employees & Directors of  
**PHOENIX FINANCE & INVESTMENTS LTD.**

# Tigers can hold their heads high

## SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's bold attempt to rewrite the record books fell 107 runs short on the final day of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The last day of 2008 could have had a special place in the annals of Test cricket but the Tigers nonetheless made the country proud with a fine showing of aggressive intent mixed with caution in their approach. They made 413 runs while chasing a never-before-achieved 521 in the fourth innings, ending the year with a lot of promise. If not the grandest record, Bangladesh made sure they easily went past their previous highest fourth innings total of 285 for 5 made against Zimbabwe in 2004. It was the eleventh highest total in the final innings of a Test match.

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# Hamas ready for Gaza truce, yet to get proposals

## AFP, Gaza City

Hamas said yesterday it had not received any truce proposals but was ready to consider any that are made that would end the Israeli offensive on its Gaza stronghold and its blockade of the enclave.

"No truce initiative has been sent to us," senior Hamas official Ayman Taha told AFP.

"If such a proposition is made to us, we will examine it as we

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