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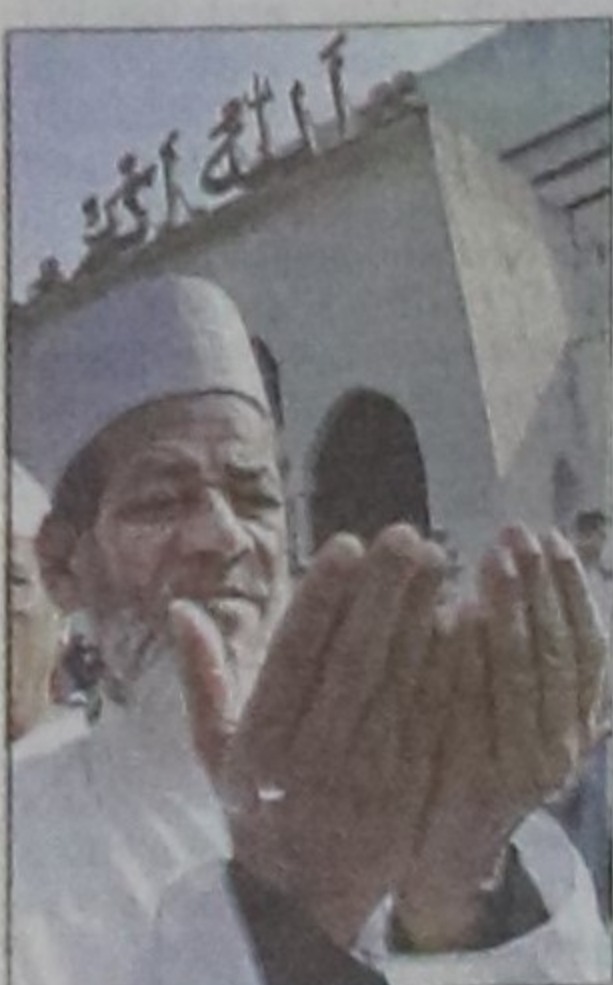
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Prayers for divine blessings

STAR REPORT

Awami League yesterday arranged special prayers at mosques and other places of worship across the country to express gratitude to Allah for its landslide victory in the December 29 parliamentary election.

In Dhaka, special prayer (munajat) was offered at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers, expressing gratitude to Allah for the landslide victory of Awami League-led grand alliance in the election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SCF calls to resume early trial of war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) has urged the incoming government to start trial of war criminals as soon as possible to free the nation from disgrace.

Congratulating the AL-led grand alliance on their landslide election victory, the forum yesterday said the souls of the martyrs would remain unsatisfied and the sovereignty of the country insecure until the trial of the war criminals is held.

In a statement, they also said the triumph of the grand alliance is very significant after 38 years of liberation war when activities of the war criminals and anti-liberation forces increase alarmingly in the country.

The forum hoped that the trial against the war criminals would be completed and a new era would dawn in the country from now to resist the anti-liberation forces.

"The next government

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Tigers' 2nd Test from today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka in the second Test of the two-match series at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium from today.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast the match live from 9.30am.

The Tigers' brave attempt at pulling off a record-breaking chase of 521 in Mirpur sparked some life and anticipation into the short series, which Sri Lanka were overwhelming favourites. The visitors still lead 1-0 after winning the first Test by 107 runs but they would be wary of the home side.

The game marks a personal milestone for Sri Lanka's captain Mahela Jayawardene who plays his 100th Test. Since

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
January 3		
	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

ABOUT 300 LANGUISH IN JAILS AFTER TERMS
6 foreign prisoners freed, 20 more await their turn

KAILASH SARKAR

The jail authorities have started freeing the foreign nationals languishing in Bangladeshi jails for years after serving their sentences because of diplomatic and bureaucratic tangles.

They took the step after failing to repatriate them through the normal procedures.

At least six foreign prisoners -- four Myanmar, one North Korean and one Tanzanian -- were freed in the last one month.

Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star, "We have taken the step on humanitarian grounds and also consider-

ing the sufferings they are enduring."

"We have already freed six foreigners taking bonds from their relatives and lawyers in the last one month," he said, adding that they hope to free 20 more foreign nationals in the next one month.

Jail sources said at present a total of 878 nationals from 11 countries are in various prisons in Bangladesh. Of them, jail terms of 286 foreign nationals expired long ago.

Sources said of the foreign prisoners, 515 are Myanmar, 330 are Indian, 12 are Pakistani, seven are Nepali, five are Tanzanian, two are Kenyan, three are Malaysian and one each from Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Liberia and Hungary.

The jail terms of 30 foreign nationals

expired 15 years ago while 80 others had served their terms five years back.

As per the normal procedure, the jail authorities send necessary papers to the home ministry, which forwards the information to the foreign ministry for repatriating the foreign prisoners. Then, the ministry contacts the embassies or high commissions of the countries concerned.

Sources said the authorities concerned could not collect information about the foreign prisoners -- mostly Indian and Myanmar -- who do not have any passport.

Referring to the Indian guerrilla leader Anup Chetia, who has been jailed for over 10 years, the IG-Prisons said, "His jail

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

2 BCL men held, 9 DU halls raided

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student body of Awami League, at Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University (DU) for their involvement in Thursday's incident at the hall.

Later, at around midnight members of police and detective branch (DB) raided nine DU halls to recover illegal arms but did not find any.

Three BCL men were injured in a factional clash that later spread to nearby Kobi Jasimuddin Hall.

After the incident, BCL university unit president Shohel Rana Tipu and general secretary Sajjad Saqib Badsha

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BCL captures DU rooms ignoring Hasina's directive

RAKIB AHAMMED

Ignoring Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's instructions, cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) have occupied the rooms of many students, journalists and leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in all dormitories of Dhaka University.

Resident students alleged that the BCL cadres have also gathered firearms in the university halls which, along with the internal clashes among BCL factions, has frightened them.

Meanwhile, DU authorities on Thursday postponed all examinations until January 5, for "unavoidable reasons".

After the landslide victory of the AL-led grand alliance in the ninth parliamentary elections, Hasina directed BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton not to engage in any violence on the campus, BCL sources said.

Hasina also directed BCL top leaders for taking strict action against those responsible for such violence, if any.

But cadres of the AL's student wing vandalised furniture and documents of JCD men and locked the rooms of many journalists, including DU correspondent of the daily Sangbad and a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

China, Pak president for better ties

XINHUA, Beijing

China was pleased to see that Bangladesh's ninth parliamentary elections completed smoothly, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said yesterday.

"As a friendly neighbour, we sincerely hope Bangladesh can maintain social stability and economic development," Qin said.

China will continue to work with Bangladesh to promote bilateral cooperation, he added.

UNB adds: Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raja Gilani yesterday greeted Awami League President Sheikh Hasina for the grand alliance's massive victory in the December 29 parliamentary election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Attack on BNP men continues, alleges Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed yesterday criticised the Awami League (AL) for failing to rein in its activists despite party President Sheikh Hasina's statement earlier that there would be no politics of vengeance.

"They [AL activists] are attacking leaders and activists of the BNP and its associate organisations which reflects their BAKSAL mindset," Rizvi said at a press briefing at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office.

"The Awami League claimed that they do not believe in politics of destruction and revenge but they have failed to prove that in action," Rizvi said.

Rizvi told reporters that the BNP Standing Committee will

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

2 killed, 15 hurt in violence

STAR REPORT

Two people died and 15 others were injured in separate incidents of violence across the country yesterday.

Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami allegedly killed Parabashi Begum Fulmoti, 50, wife of Awami League (AL) activist Shukur Ali of Sreerampur under Shailakupa upazila in Jhenidah.

Sources said Jamaat activists entered the house of Fulmoti, beat her up and hacked her to death over previous enmity.

Police arrested six people in connection with the incident, our Jhenidah correspondent reports.

Additional law enforcers were deployed in the area to avert further untoward incidents.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



A section of innovative traders makes some quick bucks selling booklets on the December 29 election results at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

Veg, fish prices spiral despite adequate supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prices of vegetables and fish marked a fresh hike in the city's kitchen markets after the elections despite their adequate supply for the last two days.

Meanwhile, the prices of non-brand edible oil continued to fall in the last 15 days in the city markets.

Both the wholesale and retail markets in the capital witnessed a shortage in supply of vegetables and fish two days back resulting in a hike in their prices after the polls.

Before the elections, bean was sold for Tk 10-12 a kg, onion for Tk 24-30, potato for Tk 12-16, aubergine for Tk 10-12, tomato for Tk 12-15, potol for Tk 18-20, barbati for Tk 25-30 a kg and cauliflower and cabbage for Tk 10-15 a piece.

In the city's kitchen markets yesterday, bean was sold for Tk 32-35 a kg, onion Tk 30-34, potato for Tk 18-20, aubergine for Tk 12-20, tomato for Tk 15-24, a cauliflower for Tk 15-25, a cabbage for Tk 12-20, potol for Tk 28-35 a kg and barbati for Tk 35-45 a kg.

Wholesalers claimed that an increase in vegetables prices in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

2 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals slit a 12-year-old boy's throat at Kadamtoli in the city and killed a housewife at Shah Ali in Mirpur yesterday.

The boy was identified as Faisal Nahid who worked at a workshop in East Kadamtoli.

Police said they found his body near a Wasa pond and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Nazma Akter, mother of the deceased, told reporters that Nahid went out of his home around 3:00pm and did not return. However, she claimed that Nahid had an altercation with a number of boys in the area a few days ago.

The housewife was identified as Afroza Begum, wife of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

