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STUDENT'S DEATH

Education in a quagmire

JU appears helpless as politics dictate terms of teachers, students

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

Jahangirnagar University plunged into further uncertainty as two rival groups of teachers got on a collision course yesterday with one group boycotting classes indefinitely and the other deciding to take classes.

University teachers split into two -- one opposing the vice chancellor and the other backing the VC -- over a set of demands, including the removal of the proctor, following the death of Zubair Ahmed, a fourth-year student of English department, at the hands of Bangladesh

Chhatra League activists on January 9.

The teachers opposing the VC demonstrated on the campus yesterday and gave an ultimatum to the administration for removing the proctor by 12:00noon tomorrow.

They would go for tougher movement if their demands are not met, said the teachers at a rally on the university campus.

"We will continue boycotting classes and other professional duties until our demands are met," said Dr Sharif Uddin, general secretary of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA).

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Devotees at the Biswa Ijtema in Tongi queue yesterday for treatment at a temporary health centre set up there by the directorate of health.

KSA restricts sponsorship of 18 plus Bangladeshis

STAR REPORT

The interior ministry of Saudi Arabia has reiterated that all Bangladeshi nationals staying in the kingdom under the sponsorship of their parents must leave the country and return home upon reaching the age of 18,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Kite flying ends in tragic death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kite flying festival on the occasion of Poush Sankranti yesterday, a very popular festival in Old Dhaka marking the end of Bangla month Poush, saw the tragic death of a schoolboy.

Fahim Ahmed Shiplu, 13, a student of Class VIII at Bangladesh Bank Colony High School, died after falling from the rooftop of a six-storey building while trying to grab a kite that snapped off the string.



Shiplu

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

20 stolen bikes seized

One arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police early yesterday arrested two persons with 20 "stolen" motorcycles from Purba Rajabazar area in the capital.

The motorcycles were seized from the garage of a multi-storey building at 165/A Purba Rajabazar around 2:30am, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police

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Govt moves to cut bank borrowing

Spurs ministries on utilising foreign funds

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may not allow ministries anymore to use local funds as an alternative to foreign funds in a bid to discourage budgetary spending with loans from the banking system, finance ministry officials said yesterday.

If the measure comes into effect, the

ministries will have to keep local and foreign funds separate for any project.

A planning ministry official said the ministries go for the local fund as there are various strings attached to the donor funds.

The government is likely to take the step in line with the conditions of the

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UK minister for int'l dev in city

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UK's Secretary of State for International Development Andrew Mitchell MP arrived here

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Rescuers trying to get the injured out and recover the bodies of the dead from the mangled the bus that plunged into a 300-foot deep gorge in Thanchi of Bandarban yesterday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: STAR

Euro crisis deepens

REUTERS, Berlin/Athens

Standard & Poor's has downgraded the credit ratings of nine eurozone countries, stripping France and Austria of their coveted triple-A status but not EU paymaster Germany.

"Today's rating actions are primarily driven by our assessment that the policy initiatives that have been taken by European policymakers in recent weeks may be insufficient to fully address ongoing systemic stresses in the eurozone," the US-based ratings agency said in a statement.

In a potentially more ominous setback, negotiations on a debt swap by private creditors seen as crucial to avert a Greek default that would rock Europe and the world economy broke up without agreement in Athens. Officials, however, said more talks are likely next week.

If Greece cannot persuade banks and insurers to accept voluntary losses on their bond holdings, a second international rescue package for the euro zone's most heavily indebted state will unravel, raising the prospect of bankruptcy in late March, when it has to redeem 14.4 billion euros in maturing debt.

S&P cut the ratings of Italy, Spain, Portugal and Cyprus by two notches and the standings of France, Austria, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia by one notch each.

The move puts highly indebted Italy on the same BBB+ level as Kazakhstan and pushes Portugal into junk status.

It put 14 euro-zone states on negative outlook for a possible further downgrade, including France, Austria, and still triple-A-rated Finland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the University Grants Commission's statement that some quarters are trying to destabilise the academic atmosphere in the universities?

Yes (45.3%)

No (52.9%)

No Comments (1.8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 329

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the Awami League-led government will be able to fulfill its pre-poll pledges in the remaining two years of its tenure?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING January 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:36	5:40
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Zardari meets Pak army chief amid tensions



Zardari

Gilani

Gen Kayani

AGENCIES

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari met the chief of the powerful army yesterday for rare face-to-face talks amid a civilian-military standoff that is shaking the government, a spokesman said.

Television reports said the two discussed the memo scandal and issues related to national security.

Sources told DawnNews that the meeting between the army chief and the president lasted for over an hour.

Sources said Kayani told the president that he had reservations over Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's statements in a Chinese daily regarding the replies submitted by the army chief and DG ISI in the memo case.

The military chief reportedly requested the president to direct the premier to retract his statements made to the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



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