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# Tearful mourners pay last respect

## Mandela lies in state

AFP, Pretoria

Nelson Mandela's tearful widow was among scores of mourners who paid their last respects before his open casket yesterday, as the much-loved leader lay in state.

Graca Machel, clad in a black head-dress with her eyes shielded by sunglasses, placed both hands on the raised coffin before turning away disconsolate.

At each end of the coffin stood two navy officers clad in white dress uniform, heads bowed, eyes closed and swords pointing downward.

Later, presidents, royalty and thousands of South Africans made their own pilgrimage.

Some stopped briefly to pray, others bowed or brushed against the rope balustrade to get a closer look at the mortal remains of a man who had earned a place in history long before his demise.

Some collapsed, felled by the weight of their grief, before being helped away by medical personnel or fellow onlookers.

A blind man with a cane passed by, helped by an aide.

"I was just feeling sad when I saw him lying there as if he can wake up. As if I can say 'Mr Mandela, how are you?' said 44-year-old Anna Mtsoweni, who waited in line from 5:00 am.

Among the dignitaries were Mandela's former political foe FW de Klerk, ex-wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and musician and activist Bono.

The Irish rocker accompanied Mandela's long time aide-de-camp Zelda Le Grange, who appeared heartbroken and needed to be supported throughout.

Earlier a black hearse flanked by 16 motorcycle outriders had carried Mandela's flag-draped coffin on a solemn journey through the streets of Pretoria, the South African capital.

The cortege moved briskly through streets lined with flag-waving South Africans who formed a public guard of honour.



Graca Machel, widow of Nelson Mandela, bids farewell to the great leader lying in state at the Nelson Mandela Amphitheatre at the Union buildings in Pretoria, South Africa.

# Milk supply blockade-hit

## Most of the consumers in three major cities find no milk in shops as supply chain snapped; 30,000 Milk Vita outlets go dry

TAWFIQUE ALI

More than one million consumers of three major metropolises have been suffering severely from milk scarcity for three weeks, as blockades and hartals have snapped the supply chain of the country's leading dairy producers.

This time, the people of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet also had to suffer from scarcity of butter, ghee and powdered milk with children, senior citizens and ailing patients going without the much needed nutrition.

On a hartal or blockade day, at least half a million litres of milk go sour or sold at throw-away prices as the produce cannot be transported to the capital for pasteurisation and packaging, according to available data.

Since November, there had been 23 days of shutdowns which came as a huge blow to the supply and distribution chain of the dairy industry, said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, managing director of the country's largest state-run cooperative dairy farm Milk Vita.

Milk Vita is capable of collecting around 2.5

lakh litres of milk a day from across the country. Apart from pasteurised milk, it also produces butter, ghee and powdered milk.

But for more than three weeks, its 30,000 retail outlets in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet have been going dry, as production came to a halt.

"We along with more than a million cooperative farmers and their dependents have suffered an aggregated loss of Tk 120 crore due to the 61 days of hartals and blockades since January," said Munir Chowdhury.

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Dairy farmers of Balijuri Ghoshpara in Madarganj of Jamalpur dump their stale milk yesterday as dairy product companies could not collect milk from them due to the ongoing blockades and hartals.

PHOTO: STAR

# AL to offer JP 60 seats if it joins polls

## Allies, others to get 11 seats

PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has finalised a list of 60 parliamentary constituencies, mostly in Rangpur division, to give up those seats for the Jatiya Party if it agrees to contest the January 5 national polls.

If JP Chairman HM Ershad returns to the electoral race, the AL nominees in those constituencies would withdraw their candidacies to ensure victory for the JP

aspirants, said AL sources.

The ruling party has planned to give up a total of 71 seats for its allies and the Jatiya Party.

Some senior AL leaders were making strong efforts and holding talks with JP leaders Rawshan Ershad, Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziauddin Bablu to convince the JP high ups of joining the polls.

AL presidium member Matia Chowdhury said her party was trying to bring Jatiya Party back in the electoral battle.

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# Justice Sinha's village home set on fire

## Jamaat activist held in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A group of unidentified criminals set fire to the village home of Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, a senior judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, at Kamalganj in Moulvibazar early morning yesterday.

In this connection, police arrested Abu Taleb, a leader of pro-Jamaat labour organisation, at Vanuganj of the upazila in the evening, Kamalganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nihar Ranjan Nath told The Daily Star around 5:00pm.

Nilmani Sinha, younger brother of the justice, said at least 10-12 people riding a CNG-run three-wheeler and two motorbikes arrived at Tilokpur village, and set fire to the justice's house by pouring kerosene around 5:30am.

As the family members cried for help, the criminals fled the scene, leaving behind a sharp weapon, he said. However, none was injured as locals doused the flame immediately, he added.

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# WAR CRIMES TRIAL Absentee counsel loses power of attorney

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday cancelled the vokalatnama (power of attorney) of defence counsel for Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf as the counsel has been remaining absent from court proceedings since November 25.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members

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PRAYER TIMING December 12		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5-15	5-50	
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

# MIR QUASEM'S TRIAL Witness testifies on killing of 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday testified that four to five detainees were killed at a Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali-controlled Al-Badr torture camp in Chittagong during the Liberation War in 1971.

Syed Mohammad Amran, a group commander of Bangladesh Liberation Force (BLF) who endured torture for 16 days in that camp, also told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Quasem even interrogated him to

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**Horoscopes bad for you!**

MAIL ONLINE

If the horoscope is your favourite page in the newspaper, then beware: the Zodiac is more than just a harmless pastime.

People who follow their stars are more likely to abandon their commitments and be self-indulgent if they're predicted to

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The Daily Star

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you agree the government has failed to give protection to the witnesses of the war crimes trial?

Yes (83%)  
No (17%)

TOTAL VOTES: 372

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the ruling and opposition parties would continue their dialogue in a spirit of goodwill and compromise to decrease tensions?

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