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Farmers upset over veg prices

Blockades, hartals disrupt transport system

SOHEL PARVEZ

For nearly three months, Mohmmad Ekramul Haque toiled on his vegetable patch to get a good cauliflower and mange tout harvest.

He was expecting to sell each maund of cauliflower for at least Tk 500 and mange tout for Tk 800, which would rake in enough to fund an extension to his one-room clay hut.

But, circumstances are such that on Wednesday, he had to sell 4.5 maunds, or 200 pieces, of quite large-sized cauliflowers for just Tk 130 and one maund of mange tout for just Tk 200 at Bogra's Mahastan Bazar, a vegetable wholesale hub up north, the country's food basket.

"A lot of my labour and care has gone into growing those cauliflowers. It is very hard for me to accept. I mean, the total proceeds are even less than the van fare I had to foot to bring these vegetables here," said a visibly distraught Haque.

His distress seems all the more upsetting when you learn that a reasonably-sized cauliflower sold for around Tk 35 and a kilogram of mange tout for Tk 25 in city markets yesterday.

Few yards away from Haque, some farmers were seen selling radish for less than Tk 1 a kilogram and brinjal for Tk 6. In Dhaka, a kg of radish sold for Tk 25-30 and brinjal for Tk 35, yesterday.

"I have never faced such a deep suffering in my life. It is as if I am giving away the fruits of my labour for free," said Abu Bakar Siddique, a neighbour of Haque in Shibganj.

The reason for the fire sale of winter vegetables, typically money-spinners for farmers, is the sinking demand from

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Star's
VISIT TO
NORTH



Jamaat-Shibir men, *top left*, from one of their flash processions attack on-duty Assistant Sub-Inspector Kamal at Bagbari in Sylhet city yesterday morning. Pressing him against an iron pole, *top right*, they hit him with brick chunks and glass bottles. They do not stop the pounding even when the officer is down on the ground, *bottom left*. The Jamaat-Shibir men leave the police officer severely injured and motionless on the ground.

PHOTO: STAR/ BANGLAR CHOKH



REGISTRATION

Jamaat appeals against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday appealed to the Supreme Court against the High Court verdict that declared the party's registration with the Election Commission illegal, thereby making it unfit for contesting the

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PRAYER TIMING December 13		
Azan	5:15	5:50
Fajr	5:15	5:50
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:19	5:22
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



A choir sings at the Anglican Saint George's Church in Singapore at a mass yesterday. The church service was attended by members of the diplomatic community in Singapore in honour of former South African president Nelson Mandela.

PHOTO: AFP

Third round talks seem uncertain

Opposition mulls fresh agitation after Victory Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty looms over the possible third round of talks between the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP to end the political deadlock.

AL sources said the party is not hopeful of any positive results from its meeting with the BNP and this has made the AL leaders less interested in further talks with the main opposition party.

Against this backdrop, the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance is planning to start new agitation from Tuesday as its 144-hour blockade ends at 6:00am today.

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BNP insiders said the opposition combine will not go for any tougher programme like blockade in the next three days as the nation will observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day tomorrow and the Victory Day on Monday.

The BNP will hold protest rallies across the country on Sunday demanding formation of a non-party government. The party has drawn up a three-day programme to mark the Martyred Intellectuals Day and the Victory Day.

The opposition alliance has been pressing for a non-party polls-time government,

No plough, please

JP asks EC not to allocate the symbol to any candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday asked the Election Commission not to allocate his party's electoral symbol "plough" to any MP aspirant, "as JP is not contesting the January 5 national elections".

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Protect public properties

Govt asks local govt peps not to help carry out destruction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday warned elected local government representatives of suspension if they either instigate or assist the destruction of public properties across the country.

They were also instructed to save public properties from destruction.

The LGRD and cooperatives ministry in a letter to the mayors and councillors of city corporations and pourasabhas, and chairmen of upazila

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Thousands pay tribute to Madiba

AFP, Pretoria

Nelson Mandela was given back to ordinary South Africans, who queued in their thousands from early morning yesterday to file past his open casket on a day of viewing reserved for the public.

Until now the cameras of the world have often been trained on leaders, VIPs and celebrities paying tribute to a man known for his common touch -- a man who related to princes and paupers with equal ease.

Ordinary mourners from all walks of life had also queued for hours on end Wednesday to view the body, but many were turned away by evening

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Monno Medical College
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"Monno City", Gilondo, Manikganj (A Concern of Monno Welfare Foundation)

Declares vacancies for the following posts

Monno Medical College Established in the year 2011 is enrolling its 3rd Batch of MBBS Students, located in a nice, serene and pleasant atmosphere of Monno City, Gilondo, Manikganj (only 5 KM away from Manikganj Town) requires services of the following professionals:

Sl No.	Name of Posts	Qualification and Experience
01	Principal for Monno Medical College - Manikganj	As per BMDC rules with relevant publications. Preference for candidates with strong academic and clinical background. At least 3-5 years work experience as Principal in any reputed medical college. Age: 55-60 years.
02	Vice Principal for Monno Medical College - Manikganj	As per BMDC rules with relevant publications. Preference for candidates with strong academic background. At least 1-2 years work experience as Vice Principal in any reputed medical college. Age: 45-50 years.

Highly energetic and ambitious candidates are encouraged to apply.

All interested candidates are requested to send their CV to any of the following address on or before **25th December, 2013. Chairman, Monno Medical College, Monno City, Gilondo, Manikganj. E-mail: chairman@monno-group.com**

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

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

☒ Yes (23%)
☐ No (77%)

TOTAL VOTES: 362

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with US Secretary of State John Kerry that the execution of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah might derail the next parliamentary election in Bangladesh?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net