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# MOLLAH EXECUTION

## Pak Taliban enraged, issue threat

Protests against Pak stance continue in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Riled at the execution of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, banned militant outfit Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has threatened to attack Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad.

Agitations rose across the country yesterday demanding Pakistan make an apology for its reaction to the execution.

Demonstrators demanded the government cut off diplomatic ties with Pakistan if it does not apologise for adopting a parliamentary resolution against Mollah's execution and thus meddling in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

Pakistani newspaper The Nation yesterday reported that although security arrangements around the Bangladesh mission in Pakistan have been enhanced manifold and fresh security directives have been issued to the ambassador of Bangladesh, law enforcement agencies still fear terrorist attacks on the mission.



Scuffles break out at Gulshan-2 yesterday as police try to prevent activists of Gonojagoron Mancha from laying siege to the Pakistan High Commission. Police resorted to charging truncheons, *inset*, and around 100 activists got injured, claimed Gonojagoron Mancha. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# WEALTH OF MP ASPIRANTS

## ACC won't probe now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will not launch an inquiry into how some Awami League contestants of the upcoming polls have amassed huge wealth in the last five years as, according to it, such a move may hamper the election.

"At this very moment, the ACC does not want to cause any disorder centering on the issue. Let everything [election] get over smoothly, then we will see [look into the matter]." ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin told reporters at his office in the capital yesterday.

He made the remarks when journalists drew his attention to a report of The Daily Star, which compared the wealth statements submitted by the contestants ahead of the 10th parliamentary polls with those

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# Free treatment not enough

Burn victims demand compensation

ZYMA ISLAM

Needy arson victims receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital have demanded that their families be given immediate monetary compensation for survival.

Khorshed Alam, who operates a CNG-run vehicle in Chittagong, has suffered serious burns in an arson attack on his three-wheeler. His family had to add Tk 15,000 to the pile of mounting debts to bring him to Dhaka for better treatment.

"I need monetary compensation for the tragedy that befell my husband," said his wife Shamsunnahar at the Burn Unit of DMCH.

Only free medicines are not enough for the seven-member family to recover from the financial blow, she added.

"The vehicle that the pro-hartal activists burned was not completely paid for. We still have to give an instalment of Tk 50,000. We had saved penny by penny and already paid

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# Bangladesh a great concern

States US senate committee resolution

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has approved a resolution on Bangladesh expressing 'great concern' about the continued political deadlock that distracts from the country's many important challenges.

Condemning the ongoing violence, the resolution urged political leaders in Bangladesh to engage 'directly and substantively' in a dialogue towards free, fair and credible elections.

Senators Richard Durbin, Michael B Enzi and Christopher S Murphy submitted the resolution (Res-318) to the Committee on Foreign Relations on December 11, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

# POSITIVE ON POLLS

## Some JP men to defy Ershad

Kazi Zafar's spl council today

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The election game has not yet been over for Jatiya Party as a section of its top leaders have planned to contest the January 5 election defying the party chief's decision to boycott it.

Insiders say Raushan Ershad, a senior presidium member and wife of JP chief HM Ershad, is giving the lead in support of party colleagues Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziauddin Bablu, among others.

A number of JP leaders however told The Daily Star that Ershad had indirect support behind Raushan's move.

"The fact is Ershad wants to remain on both boats -- Awami League and BNP. He is opposing the January 5 election to please BNP and allowing his wife to take part in the election to please the ruling party," said a JP presidium member asking not to be identified.

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# The Economist

## AL to win, Bangladesh to lose

STAR REPORT

"A coup by instalments" is how a European diplomat describes efforts by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to extend her rule. The main opposition is to boycott a parliamentary election on January 5. So Sheikh Hasina's party, the Awami League, is assured of victory. Legitimacy is another matter, the UK-based The Economist reports.

More than 100 people have died in political

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Supporters of the opposition-called blockade dug a trench in the Sundarganj-Shobhaganj road in Gaibandha Wednesday night to sever road communications.

BRIBERY

SP jailed for 35yrs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a superintendent of police (SP) to 35 years' rigorous imprisonment for pocketing Tk 20 lakh in bribe by confining a businessman in December 2002.

The convict, Mostofa

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PRAYER TIMING

December 20

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5:20 5:55

Juma 12:30 1:15

Asr 3:45 4:00

Maghrib 5:22 5:25

Esha 7:00 7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Victoria Falls to be renamed

MAIL ONLINE

President Robert Mugabe wants Victoria Falls to be renamed 'the smoke that thunders' to get rid of its

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the 5th January election would be another controversial election of the history?

Yes (88%)

No (12%)

TOTAL VOTES: 442

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Gonojagoron Mancha's demand for suspension of diplomatic ties with Pakistan?


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