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**POTATO PRICE UP BY TK 7-A-KG**  
**Syndicate takes people for ride**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Large traders have hiked prices of potatoes to make windfall profit on speculation that fresh harvest of the crop would hit markets late due to delayed planting, thanks to unusual rain.

On average, retail prices of potatoes increased by 33 percent to Tk 28-32 a kg from Tk 20-25 a month ago in Dhaka, according to data of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Consumers outside the capital also had to count extra bucks for potatoes, as a section of big traders and farmers and cold storage operators increased prices at cold storage level by taking an unfair advantage of depleting stocks and speculation of late arrival of fresh harvests, alleged small traders.

This year's late rain in November affected planting of potatoes and standing crops in fields. This led to the speculation that harvests of the most consumed vegetable might be delayed.

New potatoes usually arrive in markets in mid-November, but this year it might be delayed by 15 to 30 days, said farmers.

To capitalise on the shortage of supply, a section of traders in the producing zones became very active in buying potatoes from cold storages and wait for a few days to make hefty profits.

Mohammad Hossain, manager of Panchashar Cold Storage in Munshiganj, said prices of potatoes soared to Tk 1,800 for each 80 kg sack in the last few weeks which is quite

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Bullet-hit Choron Soren with one of his hands cuffed to his bed at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday. The Santal man, who was shot in the leg during the November 6 attack on his community in Gaibandha, was undergoing treatment under police custody. PHOTO: STAR

**Santal man being treated with hand cuffed, tied**

No case filed over the killing of Santal men

KONGKON KARMAKER and K M REZAUL HOQUE

Choron Soren was at his home seven days ago when employees of Rangpur Sugar Mills, along with police, attacked Santals in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj to evict ethnic minority families from disputed land.

The attackers beat up the 52-year-old, forced him out of home and took away valuables before torching the house in presence of police.

As he protested the brutality, cops fired shots in his legs, Choron told The Daily Star yesterday.

His fellow Santals later sent him to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on the night of November 6.

Waking up in the following morning, he found one of his hands handcuffed to a rope which was tied to the bed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



**Myanmar detains 2 top journalists**

ANN demands their immediate release

ASIA NEWS NETWORK, Bangkok

International media and rights organisations have called on the Myanmar government to immediately release two senior journalists from Eleven Media Group, who were detained on a defamation charge.

On Friday, CEO of Eleven Media Than Htut Aung and Chief Editor Wai Phyo went to a district police station. From there they were taken to a court. Later, they were sent to Insein Prison, with the next court hearing due on November 25.

Both were accused in a defamation case by the Yangon Region government whose Chief Minister Phyo Min Thein himself is a former political prisoner and a key member of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

**IS blast at Pak shrine kills 43**

REUTERS, Quetta

An explosion claimed by militant group Islamic State ripped through a Muslim shrine in southwestern Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 43 people and wounding scores, officials said.

The blast at Shah Noorani shrine occurred while hundreds of people were inside, local district commissioner Hashim Ghalzai told Reuters.

Provincial Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said 43 people were killed and Ghalzai said more than 100 were wounded.

"Every day, around sunset, there is a dhamaal (ritual dance) here, and there are large numbers of people who come for this," said Nawaz Ali, the shrine's custodian.

The shrine is located in Baluchistan province about 100 km (60 miles) north of the port city of Karachi, to where rescue official

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

**Local admin, cops guilty of neglect**

Find two probe committees

RASHIDUL HASAN and M ABUL KALAM AZAD from Brahmanbaria

Two committees, formed by the police headquarters and the Brahmanbaria police to investigate the October 30 hate attack on Hindu homes and temples in Nasirnagar, found negligence of the local administration and police in dealing with the attackers.

Much of the mayhem that day could have been averted had the administration and police acted promptly and properly, heads of the committees told The Daily Star yesterday.

The committees were formed a day after religious zealots vandalised and looted over a hundred Hindu homes and at least 17 temples following a Facebook post allegedly by local youth Rasraj Das. He is in jail in a case filed over the post "hurting Muslims' religious sentiments".

Shakhawat Hossain, additional deputy inspector general of police (Chittagong Range), is leading the four-member team formed by the police headquarters. Iqbal Hossain, additional superintendent of police in Brahmanbaria, is heading the other four-member body formed by the office of superintendent of police (SP) in the district.

The deputy commissioner's office in Brahmanbaria had also formed a three-member investigation committee led by Shamsul Haque, an additional district magistrate, after the attack.

The first two investigation bodies were asked to submit their reports within seven working days while the other to submit its report within 10 working days.

All the committees were asked to find whether the local police and the local administration had any negligence, or failure to carry out their duties while dealing with the incident, sources said.

The bodies were also tasked with identifying the causes and the mastermind(s) behind the attack.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

ENSURE FOOLPROOF SECURITY OF MINORITIES: PM -- PAGE 5

**US, Mexico players form 'unity wall'**

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The United States and Mexico national teams made a pointed statement prior to kick-off in their World Cup qualifying clash on Friday night.

Instead of posing for separate team photographs, as per convention, the two sets of players came together and mixed to form what many have interpreted as a 'unity wall'.

The gesture follows the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States earlier this week.

During his divisive election campaign, Trump infamously pledged to build a wall along the two countries' shared border to curb immigration from Mexico to the US.

The president-elect also promised to make Mexico pay for the erection of the wall and labelled Mexican migrants as "rapists" and "murderers".

Trump's rise to prominence in US politics has

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



**Zuckerberg declared 'dead'!**

FB glitch that turned profiles into memorial pages now fixed

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook accidentally declared its founder Mark Zuckerberg and many other users dead on Friday, acknowledging after fixing the problem that it had committed a "terrible error."

"For a brief period today, a message meant for memorialised profiles was mistakenly posted to other accounts," a Facebook spokesperson told AFP.

"This was a terrible error that we have now fixed."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

**Until next time ...**

Curtains fall on Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The second edition of Dhaka International Folk Fest came to a close last night at the Army Stadium in the capital, with calls for strengthening the connection to the roots to fight all evil powers.

"I have seen the exuberance of youth at this festival," said Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Nooran Sisters delivered an unforgettable performance on their debut at the Dhaka stage, on the closing evening of the Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest at the Army Stadium. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**Trump makes U-turn on major polls promise**

Says he may not repeal Obamacare, shakes up transition team

AGENCIES

Donald Trump was scheduled to huddle yesterday with his White House transition team for a second day over cabinet picks as the president-elect says he is open to keeping parts of President Barack Obama's signature healthcare law.

The billionaire real estate mogul said in interviews that he would consider an "amended" version of the 2010 law, a major U-turn in position after vowing on the campaign trail to repeal the measure.

The announcement was one of several surprises, as Trump shook up his transition team by putting running mate Mike Pence in charge and named a cohort of Washington insiders -- and three of his children -- to help with the process of choosing a new cabinet.

The reshuffle came as anti-Trump protesters spilled onto the streets for a third straight night, with the Republican facing mounting calls to reassure Americans who fear a xenophobic crackdown under his authority.

The 70-year-old incoming president has a mammoth task of fleshing out his cabinet, as well as steering the complex transition of power, and announced on Friday he was elevating Vice President-elect Pence to lead the process.

Trump included three of his children and his son-in-law Jared Kushner on the transition team -- a move likely to raise eyebrows, since the tycoon earlier announced that should

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION