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Nizami on remand for first time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday started quizzing Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, remanded for the first time in his political career, on various issues including his party's

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Clockwise from left, Locals beat a Shibir activist at Halishahar in the port city yesterday after Jamaat-Shibir men vandalised shops and vehicles in the area. A police booth damaged and car vandalised in Chittagong yesterday during an angry demonstration by Jamaat-Shibir activists demanding the immediate release of arrested Jamaat trio.

PHOTO: STAR

Jamaat men go on rampage

Vandalise over 100 vehicles in Ctg during protest against arrest of leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jamaat-Shibir men yesterday rampaged through streets in the port city, vandalising over 100 vehicles.

They carried out the destruction on a stretch of about two kilometres from Port Connecting Road near Halishahar H-block to Agrabad access Road near the district police lines at Chhotopole.

A group of over 60 activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat, brought out a procession on Port Connecting Road at around 4:30pm, witnesses and police said.

While marching the streets, they chanted slogans demanding the release of detained Jamaat leaders Nizami, Mojahid and Sayeede, and damaged the vehicles in their way indiscriminately.

Several other groups of Jamaat-Shibir men from different lanes and by-lanes in an apparently pre-planned way joined the

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Rare artefacts stolen from Nat'l Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of rare objects including a gold cross of Queen Victoria and 17 old coins with archaeological value have been stolen from the National Museum.

The museum authorities have filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station in this regard mentioning that a total of 26 rare objects were stolen.

Among those, five were gold medals, three silver medals and an Ekushey Padak and 17 rare coins of Coochbihar, Assam and Tripura.

The medals include Nababjada Latifur Rahman gold medal, Queen Victoria gold medal and Ekushey medal.

Prakash Chandra Das, director general of the museum, told The Daily Star that they were not sure that exactly 26 objects were stolen as they could not complete the whole checklist of

artefacts yet.

"It could be more than 26 or less than that. So far we have found around 26 of them are missing," he said.

The last partial inventory of the objects was conducted in 2004 where the names of the stolen objects were mentioned. Since then many people were engaged in the process, the DG said.

"Those might have been lost any time after 2004 as none noticed it," said Prakash, the newly appointed director general of the museum.

Prakash first came to know about the theft at the gallery no. 21 on April 26 this year.

The authorities then conducted an internal investigation that suspected five employees of the museum.

The probe body, formed on June 30, decided

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Living in danger

Hanumans face extinction for lack of sanctuary

EMRAN HOSSAIN with MOKAMMEL HAQUE SHUVO, back from Keshabpur, Jessore

The visitor looked a bit frightened as a grey monkey walked straight into him and stretched forward its hands for the packet of bread from his possession. The man without delay gave it the bread.

The hairy ape promptly jumped over a wall en route to its gang -- some 32 Hanuman langurs -- and the bread would add to their meal on a recent afternoon at Keshabpur in Jessore.

The group is one of the last ten surviving bands of Hanuman langurs in Bangladesh. Their number is dwindling due to clashes with humans.

Hanuman langurs are largely grey, with a black face and a long tail. They are named after Hanuman, a monkey warrior from the Ramayana who burnt his tail and face trying to rescue Sita, wife of Hindu God Rama.

They like to live close to humans.

"This is the only species of monkey that prefers to live close to human habitation while other species live in the wild," said zoologist Prof Mostofa Feeroz of Jahangirnagar University.

Hafizur Rahman, gardener of Keshabpur Upazila complex, said, "these langurs are very gentle and do no harm to people."

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PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN



'71 KILLING CASE Court seeks probe report on Nizami, Mojahid by August 2

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed Keraniganj police to submit the probe report by August 2 in a case filed against Jamaat top brass Matiur

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Mobin remanded in private car torching case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP Vice-chairman Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury on a day's remand in connection with a case filed for torching a private car the night before June 27 hartal that killed a man.

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Accept both MRPs, old passports

Dipu Moni urges manpower importing countries

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has requested all countries, particularly those importing manpower from it, to recognise both Machine Readable Passports (MRP) and hand written ones during a "transition period".

"We have introduced MRP, and it will take time to replace all hand written passports with MRPs. We thus request all countries to allow both types of passports until all concerned are given MRPs," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told journalists yesterday.

The heads of diplomatic missions or representatives of foreign countries in Dhaka, particularly Bangladeshi manpower importing countries, were invited to the foreign ministry, and the request was made through them.

This followed problems being faced by Bangladeshi workers with hand written passports in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the immigration authorities there do not recognise the previously issued hand written passports.

Dipu Moni briefed the envoys about the present situation regarding passports, and requested them to see that both types of passports are allowed during the transition period.

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OnlinePoll ✓

Are you concerned about the deaths in cop custody?

Yes (85.6%)

No (14.2%)

No Comments (0.2%)

Total votes: 394

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should double the price of CNG?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

July 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

PDB-RPCL to set up power plant jointly

Target 150-225 MW generation by June 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power Development Board (PDB) and Rural Power Company Limited (RPCL) are jointly going to set up a power plant jointly in a bid to ease the nagging power crisis in the country.

The power generation capacity of the plant would range between 150 megawatt to 225 MW, officials said.

Azizul Islam, secretary of PDB, and Abdus Sabur, managing director of RPCL, signed a memorandum of understanding in this respect in Dhaka yesterday.

The new power station would be set up at Koda in Gazipur, where RPCL's Mymensingh Power Station is located.

The estimated cost of the power plant would be 127.05 million euro (around Tk 10,799 million), and the equity participation would be half for each organisation while the equity-debt

ratio would be 30:70 in the project.

"It will be a dual-fuel power project," said PDB Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir while addressing the signing ceremony.

"We will float a tender for the project within next one month and hope that the work order would be issued within this year," he said adding that the project completion deadline is June 2012.

Earlier, the PDB chairman said a new power company under the leadership of RPCL chairman will be formed.

RPCL Chairman Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam said this is the first joint venture between the two government organisations.

"If we do not face any power problem, the country would achieve an additional 2 percentage points of GDP growth," the RPCL chairman added.

Currently, the country's power shortage hovers between 1,000MW and 2,000MW.

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