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Toll booth vandalised

One lessee points at AL lawmaker, upazila chairman; MP denies, tells of locals' outburst against 'extortion'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 300 people, allegedly backed by the local lawmaker and upazila chairman, yesterday blocked the First Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge and burnt down two toll booths following an altercation over realising toll at the city's Postagola in Shyampur area.

The blockade suspended vehicular movement on Dhaka-Mawa highway for over one and a half hours from 9:30am creating heavy gridlock on the busy road, said witnesses.

Nuruiddin Tawfiqul Islam, one of the three lessees of the bridge, alleged that a driver of a Dhaka-bound car locked in a heated argument with the toll collectors at the Keraniganj end of the bridge around 9:00pm on Wednesday.

The driver hurled insults at the toll collectors and claimed that the car belongs to ruling party MP Nasrul Hamid Bipu (Dhaka-3).

He then dialled a number and gave his mobile phone

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Men allegedly backed by the local lawmaker and an upazila chairman blockade the approach road to Buriganga Bridge in Postagola burning things on the road yesterday. They also torched two toll booths of the bridge and vandalised the police box there. All this because the "lawmaker's" car was not allowed to cross the bridge toll free.

PHOTO: COURTESY



ERSHAD CARAVAN JP finally pays toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party finally paid the outstanding toll of Tk 30,200 on Wednesday for using Bhairab Bridge during its recent long march to Sylhet.

The motorcade led by HM Ershad while crossing the bridge on Saturday and Sunday night refused

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

HC verdict ignored

Realtors put illegal housing on display for sale at Rehab fair

TAWFIQUE ALI

Illegal housing projects are being displayed and sold in the ongoing Rehab fair in the capital flouting the High Court verdict that ordered the government to stop sale and advertisement of unapproved projects.

Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing and public works, accompanied by housing and public works Secretary

Khondaker Showkat Hossain inaugurated the fair.

Approached by The Daily Star, Mannan Khan told that he would immediately instruct the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to stop the display and sale of illegal projects. Khan tried to justify his presence there by saying, "The mass media too carry advertisements of illegal projects."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Time for monkey diplomacy

AFP, Islamabad

India and Pakistan could be in for monkey diplomacy after an unsuspecting primate strayed across the border into Pakistan to be snapped up by soldiers and packed off to a British-era zoo.

The monkey, who has not been given a name by

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Govt creating fake war hero

Sayedee's counsel labels witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee yesterday continued their attempt to discredit the first prosecution witness and called him "a very opportunistic person".

The five-day cross-examination of witness Mahbubul Alam Hawlader continued yesterday in the case filed in connection with Sayedee's crimes against humanity

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ADMISSION SYSTEM Lottery made must

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has made lottery system mandatory for enrolling students in class I in all non-government junior secondary, secondary and higher secondary schools from next year.

The admission policy, formulated this week, says the lottery must be

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Vital time wasted

Jui was left to bleed for 3 hours after husband chopped off her hand

KAILASH SARKAR and BENAJIR AHMED from Narsingdi

Hawa Akhter Jui was left to bleed for nearly three hours after her husband hacked off her right hand with a machete, and dumped the severed hand into a dustbin on December 4.

"Instead of taking me to a hospital, my husband Rafiqul Islam and his sister Naima Begum remained busy mopping up the blood on the floor and the bed. Later, Rafiq went out of the house to dump the detached hand into a dustbin" Jui told The Daily Star yesterday at her parents'

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Sitting on her bed in her Narsingdi home, Jui tells The Daily Star about her ordeal.

PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government is sincere about probing the incidents of secret killing?

Yes (5.5%)
No (93.0%)
No Comments (1.5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 603

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP leader Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's allegation that secret killings have been taking place under the shield of the state is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

[facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING December 16

	Asan	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



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A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star

Today's issue of The Daily Star includes this Victory Day 64-page special on 40 achievements Bangladesh can be proud of on its fortieth anniversary of victory.

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