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Verdict catches BNP off-guard

20 vehicles vandalised in advance thinking judgment would go against Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 45 minutes before the announcement of verdict in a high-profile graft case against Tarique Rahman and Giasuddin Al Mamun, BNP activists yesterday set fire to a BRTC bus at Matidali in Bogra.

A quarter of an hour before the sentencing, the pro-opposition men had set ablaze three vehicles and vandalised several others in front of Bogra Police Lines, Nishchintopur, Mohasthan, Baghopara and Gokul areas.

The party men made all-out preparations to stage stormy demonstrations and even enforce hartal, apprehending that Tarique, also senior vice-chairman of the party, would be convicted in the money laundering case.

But when a Dhaka court yesterday acquitted Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the leaders and activists made a U-turn.

Soon after the verdict, BNP leaders and activists hailed the verdict, distributed sweetmeats among themselves and

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PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA



Expecting that BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman would be convicted for money laundering, activists of the BNP-led opposition torch a bus, a truck and a pickup in and around BNP stronghold Bogra town even before the court delivered the verdict. The court, however, acquitted the eldest son of the opposition leader yesterday.

Deadline now December 3

Illegal workers in Saudi Arabia can legalise their visa status

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The illegal expatriate workers, who were registered in the last general amnesty in Saudi Arabia, would be able to legalise their visa status or return home till December 3, said Nazmul

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5 ARRESTED BNP LEADERS

HC stays remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed a lower court order granting remand of five BNP leaders for interrogation in connection with two cases of hartal violence.

In the cases, Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar, Rafiqul Islam Miah, Abdul Awal Mintoo and Shimul Biswas had been charged with attempted murder of cops and involvement in violence in the capital.

A Dhaka court on November 14 allowed the police to take them on remand for eight days.

Yesterday, the HC asked the authorities concerned to send them to jail immediately. It, however, allowed the investigation officers to interrogate the accused, if necessary, at the jail gate.

The court also asked the government to explain in four weeks as to why the lower court order should not be cancelled.

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Ticfa deal to be signed on Nov 25

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington are expected to sign the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (Ticfa) on November 25.

A Bangladesh government delegation comprised of officials of foreign affairs and commerce ministries

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KILLING DURING LIBERATION WAR

Martyr's son testifies against AKM Yusuf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eyewitness in the war crimes case against AKM Yusuf yesterday gave a touching description of his father's murder in 1971, in which the accused was allegedly involved.

Abdul Malek Fakir and his mother Achhia Khatun gave the deposition of the

killing of freedom fighter Joynal Fakir at the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

The tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan has meanwhile summoned Abdul Wadud, lawyer of the District Judge's Court, Bagerhat, and Shamima Aktar of Notary Public, Bangladesh to the court on

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomes Malaysian premier Najib Razak at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think any new political alliance by HM Ershad will bring any change to the current political situation?

Yes

(26%)

No

(74%)

TOTAL VOTES: 320

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the visit of US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal would help make any progress in holding talks to resolve the political crisis?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING November 18

Fajr

5-05

5-40

Zohr

12-45

1-15

Asr

3-45

4-00

Maghrib

5-21

5-24

Esha

7-00

7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

20

Messages

Twitter

Panic button app in smartphones

MAIL ONLINE

Smartphone users can now set off a personal panic button to alert family and friends that they are in danger.

PanicMe fires off alerts of differing levels of importance to a chosen network of contacts if the user feels threatened or vulnerable.

The sender's location is then pinpointed using GPRS and potential responders can see how close they are so they can put a plan of action in place.

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18-party's black-flag processions today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party alliance will bring out "black-flag" processions across the country today to protest yesterday's cabinet meeting of "ministers who have already resigned".

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed made the announcement at a press briefing at the party's Naya Paltan central office yesterday.

"The government has violated the constitution by holding cabinet meeting with the ministers who have already resigned. In protest against this, we will stage a black-flag procession at all divisional cities including the capital, and the district towns tomorrow," he said.

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We express our highest regards and hearty welcome and felicitations to His Excellency

YB Dato Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak

Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA)