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DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Vandalism, once again

Jamaat men damage vehicles, torch AL leader's house after 'missing' leader found dead

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Jamaat-Shibir men blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda upazila and vandalised some vehicles yesterday, soon after a local Jamaat leader's body was recovered.

Vehicular movement came to a halt at 2:30pm, causing a tailback for about 50 kilometres between City Gate and Mirsarai. Traffic started returning to normal around 8:00pm.

Two trucks and a minibus were torched while five other vehicles were vandalised in Barabkunda, said Zakir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Baro Aulia Highway Police Station.

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Jamaat-Shibir activists burn to the ground the house of Barabkunda chairman yesterday after a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader was found dead in Sitakunda of Chittagong. They also went on the rampage on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and vandalised and torched, inset, a few vehicles.

PHOTO: STAR

President okays ACC bill despite criticism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid has signed a much-talked-about bill into law that introduced a controversial provision curtailing the Anti-Corruption Commission's authority to sue government officials on its own.

From now on, the anti-graft body will require the government's prior permission to file corruption cases against public officials. This means that the government officials will enjoy a special protection from graft charges.

Around 12:30pm yesterday, the president inked the bill.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Public playground grabbed

Private club makes it off-limits to public ignoring HC orders

TAWFIQUE ALI

Barring public access, a private club has grabbed the Dhanmondi-8 playground in the capital as an exclusive zone despite repeated High Court orders to keep it as a public space.

Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club, a registered private organisation named after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's slain brother, has deployed

round-the-clock security to prevent anyone other than club members from entering the field.

The club without any permission from the government has long been occupying the playground with illegal structures.

On July 20, the club authorities knocked down a portion of the newly-built boundary wall to have construction materials in the playground to erect some structures in a blatant

defiance of the HC order.

Mubashar Hussein, who resides near the playground, said: "I used to have an evening stroll in the field with my seven-year-old granddaughter. Now, we are not allowed to go there."

On holidays and weekends, the playground used to buzz with hundreds of local children, he said, adding that the ground now lies empty and silent.

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The gate of Dhanmondi-8 playground in the capital remains closed to the people after a private club grabbed the ground. The club has deployed round-the-clock security watch to ward off mostly children wanting to play in the ground. Dhaka city corporation has been ignoring two court orders to make the ground accessible to all.

PHOTO: STAR

WAR CRIMES OF '71 Nizami's trial finally ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami has finally ended as prosecution yesterday completed their rebuttal of defence's argument at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz sought capital punishment for Nizami after giving rebuttal of the legal points raised by defence in the case.

Pointing out how Nizami's speech had incited "reasonable members of Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS), Razakar and Al-Badr", Tureen said his speeches were like waving red cloth before a mad bull.

On November 13, the three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with member judges Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Anwarul Haque kept the

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Rejoinder, our reply

Tajul Islam, the defence counsel for war crimes accused Jamaat-e-Islami chief, protested a report headlined "Razakars were for peace! Claims Nizami's counsel in war trial" published in The Daily Star on November 19.

The rejoinder said the report presented his argument before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 incorrectly. On

November 18, he told the tribunal that no part of the Razakar ordinance had given the Razakar Force the

power or right to commit crimes against humanity.

The ordinance rather

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

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DRAFT VERDICT LEAK SQ Chy's lawyer Fakhru held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's lawyer barrister AKM Fakhru Islam for his alleged involvement in leaking the draft verdict in the war crimes case against the BNP lawmaker.

Abu Yusuf, assistant commissioner (media wing) of Dhaka Metropolitan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL
Do you think this polls-time government could be called an all-party government?

Yes (19%)
No (81%)

TOTAL VOTES: 356

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think there is any chance of participation of the opposition alliance in the all-party cabinet?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
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PRAYER TIMING November 21

Asan Jamaat	
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

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