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Remove illegal structures

Green groups raise demand over Dhanmondi playground

DU CORRESPONDENT

With the Dhanmondi-8 playground finally opened to public after two years, green activists yesterday demanded the government remove all illegal structures from the field.

They also pressed for immediate withdrawal of a case filed by Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club against environmentalists for entering the ground.

The demands were raised at a rally in front of the fine arts faculty of Dhaka University in Shahbagh.

Speaking at the rally, former captain of national cricket team Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu said a certain quarter intentionally filed the case accusing green activists. The Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) decision to open the field to public proves that the accused did not do anything wrong by entering the field. So the case should be withdrawn immediately, he added.

Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), said they will continue the movement until all the illegal structures were removed from the playground.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



A lorry overtakes another even though there is oncoming traffic on the highway near Ashulia bridge yesterday while a slow-moving power tiller, inset, gets in the way of a bus at speed on the same lane of road. Violation of traffic rules has become a norm on the highways and it seems little is being done to make sure drivers follow them.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



3 killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three people were killed and another was injured in a "gunfight" between Coast Guard members and an alleged gang of smugglers in Teknaf early yesterday.

Lt Shahid Al Ahsan, Coast Guard commander of St Martin's Island Station, had claimed that a gunfight began when a patrol team challenged a trawler carrying the "smugglers" on the Naf river.

At one stage, the trawler fled into Myanmar, he said, claiming that the "gang" had been trying to smuggle contraband Yaba from Myanmar.

Yesterday evening, police recovered three bullet-riddled bodies of the alleged gang members after raiding reportedly the same trawler anchored at the Bakkhali river in Cox's Bazar.

The bodies were of Nurul Amin Majhi of Shahporir Dweep, Md Kalu of Moheshkhali and Zahir Ahmed of Pahartali area in Chittagong city.

"We raided the trawler, MV Shahmida, at 6:30pm following a tip-off from its owner Shawkat Hossain of Cox's Bazar,"

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Years abroad for fortune only to return broke

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB and WASIM BIN HABIB

Finally, the long wait of his family came to an end as Ramiz Ali returned home yesterday, after enduring untold sufferings in Iran for 36 years.

For 18 years, his family had no clue whether he was alive or dead. Then two years ago, a local informed the family that Ramiz, now aged about 65, was alive and working in Iran.

Since then, his wife and four children had been waiting for his return.

Eight other Bangladeshi migrants also landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 10:00am along with him. Rights Jessore, an NGO, with the help of the Bangladesh mission in Tehran, arranged their repatriation.

Ramiz, a father of two sons and two daughters, went to Iran illegally in 1978 to make a fortune. Nobody cheated him, but he could not get a decent job there as he did not have any legal documents.

And when he came home after all these, he was empty-handed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Ramiz Ali Kamar Uddin

Open to post-polls coalition

Congress says its flexibility about leadership makes it a better option for regional allies; the party refutes projected surge of BJP

TNN, New Delhi

With 196 seats still to poll, Congress is far from conceding the election, but is keenly considering post-poll "stop Modi" scenarios where the party will not make its leadership of a coalition a non-negotiable condition.

Congress sees its "complete flexibility" about either propping up or participating in a non-NDA formation as a major strength in attracting allies as against BJP's commitment to project Narendra Modi as PM.

Congress's calculations, however, rest on a big if -- that the perceived Modi surge fails to take NDA close to the halfway mark of 272 Lok Sabha seats and Modi and his allies are left stranded at the 220-230 mark.

In the latest large opinion poll, taken in the first week of April, the BJP and its allies were forecast to win a narrow majority in the 543-seat lower house of parliament, compared with previous surveys predicting that they would fall short.

But in the ruling party's assessment, a drastic



Death of the car wash!

MAIL ONLINE

Banish the bucket, sponge and hose. Japanese giant Nissan has developed the world's first 'self-cleaning car' which it predicts will make car-washing 'obsolete.'

Its UK engineers are testing innovative 'nano-paint technology' which repels dirt before it gets a chance to take hold on the paintwork.

For drivers who would rather run a mile than wipe down their dirty vehicles with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) that despite various initiatives at national and international levels, the victims and their families of Rana Plaza are still in a vulnerable state?

Yes (93%)
No (7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 149

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the investigations of the Election Commission that there was no violence, rigging in the recently-held upazila elections?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Internet a CIA project: Putin

Renews fears of web breakup

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

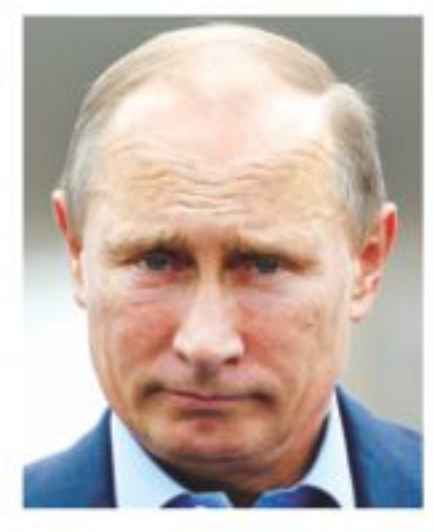
Vladimir Putin gave his clearest signal yet that he aims to break up the global nature of the internet when he branded the network a "CIA project" on Thursday.

The Russian president told a media conference in St Petersburg that America's overseas espionage agency had originally set up the internet and was continuing to develop it.

Putin has long hinted that he wants a Russian-run alternative. The idea of breaking up the internet has gained ground in Germany, Brazil and elsewhere round the world in the light of the revelations by whistleblower Edward Snowden about the extent to which the US National Security Agency has infiltrated Facebook, Skype and other social media.

Snowden's critics say that an unintended consequences

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



AL leader's tendons cut off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Activists of Jamaat-Shibir allegedly severed two fingers and tendons in the district's Ghoraghat upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Mozaffar Hossain, 45, is general secretary of ward-5 in Ghoraghat municipality unit AL. He is son of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING April 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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