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Dhanmondi playground half open

DSCC looks to PMO for directives

TAWFIQUE ALI

The Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club authorities have closed the main gate of the Dhanmondi playground on Road-8 on Wednesday but children have access to the ground through a side gate.

However, architect Iqbal Habib, one of the leading persons campaigning for freeing the public playground from the club's occupation, said, "It [locking the main gate] is a ploy to take exclusive possession of the public playground..."

Interestingly, the club's convener Sheikh Iqbal Khokon said they had locked the main gate to stop "young boys from entering with their girlfriends, access of vagabonds, prostitutes and motor vehicles".

The side gate is closed during the nights, he said. All main gates to Ramna Park too remain locked with a smaller gate open, Khokon added.

The Dhaka South City Corporation opened the playground to public on April 24 following a High Court order.

Its Administrator Md Alamgir told The Daily Star that the club authorities locked the gate and that they are waiting to

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Keeping the side gate open, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club authorities close the main gate to the public playground giving the excuse that it wants to prevent the entrance of unwanted people. Inset, children play on the ground yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

MODI'S DHAKA VISIT
Confusion over Indian daily's report

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An Indian daily has reported that Dhaka will be the first destination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, but diplomatic sources have dismissed the news as mere speculations.

Modi is expected to sign the much-awaited Teesta water-sharing agreement with Bangladesh, according to the report published in Business Standard.

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YOUTH KILLED
Police torture or road accident?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The death of a tea vendor in Ashulia has raised confusion as the victim's wife has alleged he was killed in police torture, while police said it was in a road accident.

Md Ripon Miah, 26, a tea vendor in Zamgora area of Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, was the son of Md Rafique Peer, a resident of Maheshpur village in Barisal.

Ripon's wife Sathi Akter alleged that police picked up Ripon from Nabinagar around 10:30pm on Wednesday when the couple were crossing the road

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Chinese firm gets Padma bridge job
Construction starts by Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physical work of around 6.15-kilometre-long main part of the Padma bridge is finally set to start by November this year and end by 2018.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday informed reporters the timeframe after awarding the Padma Bridge construction job to the lone bidder China Major Bridge Engineering Company (CMBEC) at a meeting of the cabinet committee on purchase.

The CMBEC has got the Tk 12,133-crore job at 12.62 percent lower than the cost estimated by design consultant firm Maunsell AECOM, the minister said.

Muhith said although only one bidder had taken part in the final bidding, Maunsell AECOM has recommended the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Cheated, tortured abroad for ransom

13 Bangladeshi return from clutches of traffickers in Iran

BELAH HOSSEIN BIPOB

Their dreams had been the same - better jobs and a handsome salary that would bring solvency and happiness to their families.

Instead the 13 Bangladeshi men became victims of human trafficking in Iran and returned home empty handed after enduring inhuman suffering at the hands of a gang comprising their own countrymen.

The Emirates airlines flight carrying all

13 victims - and a Bangladeshi named Ifran Mia allegedly involved in their trafficking - landed at 10:00am in Dhaka yesterday.

The rescued are Ali Ahmed, Mazharul Islam, Ajgar Ali, Jewel Rana, Didarul Alam, Zakir Sarder, Mohammad Ali, Modasser Majumder, Ali Akbar, Akhter Mia, Wasim Chandra, Aman Ullah and Shaheen Molla.

Traffickers lured the men from Dubai and Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Woman narrates killing of her husband in '71

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A martyr's wife yesterday testified that Pakistani army had killed her husband and one of his friends after Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan had identified them in Pabna during the Liberation War.

"My husband and Shamsul Haque [her husband's friend] were shot dead before my eyes," Jahanara Begum, wife of martyr freedom fighter Rajab Ali Biswas, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

"I pleaded for my husband's life touching Moulana Subhan's feet, but he kicked me off. The Pakistani army first shot my husband and then Shamsul Haque," said a sobbing Jahanara, who is the seventh prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Subhan.

The Pakistani army had killed at least six people in their village, after Subhan had showed them, and burned down 10 to 15 houses on May 2, 1971, said the 65-year-old witness.

"I have been demanding justice since the murder and today I am seeking justice," said Jahanara as she identified Subhan. She said she had known the accused since the 1970's general elections.

The Jamaat nayeb-e-ameer faces nine charges including genocide committed in Pabna during the nine-month-long war and pleads not guilty before the court.

During her 50-minute testimony, Jahanara of Sahapur

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Sundarbans fire still raging
Cause unknown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A fire that broke out in the Sundarbans on Wednesday afternoon was raging till last night.

SMA Bakir, station officer of Dhansagar in the East Sundarbans, said the blaze engulfed over one acre of forest in Poyshotti Chila under Chandpali range.

Forest guards and fire fighters have managed to prevent further spread of the blaze, but they have yet to put it out completely.

Amir Hossain Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of the East

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

The burning leaves and branches of trees in the Sundarbans East Zone. The fire, which started Wednesday, damaged at least five acres of forest.

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka to withdraw military personnel from Rab to save the image of the armed forces?

Yes (73%)

No (27%)

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with a Transparency International report that the Anti-Corruption Commission is "largely ineffective" in investigating and preventing corruption in Bangladesh?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING May 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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১১৪/ক, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮

ফোনঃ ৮৮০-২০২৭৫, ৮৮০-২০২৭৮, ৮৮০-২০২৭৯, ৮৮০-২০২৭৭, ৮৮০-২০২৮০, ৮৮০-২০২৮১, ১১৩১৫৮২

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জিডি-২১৫