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PM paid toll, mayor didn't

Khokon wants free ride on Hanif Flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation on Tuesday had issued a letter to the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover authorities, asking them to make sure the flyover is made toll-free for newly elected mayor Sayeed Khokon.

The letter was issued hours after Khokon along with a convoy of vehicles refused to pay the toll while travelling on the flyover around 11:55am that day.

An altercation ensued between the mayor's men and the flyover staff at a toll plaza at the Postogola end.

In the face of abusive words and threats by the mayor's men, the flyover staff, at one stage, had to let the convoy go, said city corporation sources.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while inaugurating the flyover on October 11, 2013, paid toll for her car, saying all would have to pay toll for using the flyover.

However, the city corporation authorities, on the mayor's instruction, on Wednesday issued another letter retracting their earlier letter, sources at the city corporation said.

Terming the incident "trivial", Sayeed Khokon on Wednesday told The Daily Star, "The accompanying boys started shouting at the flyover staffs, as they [flyover staff] stopped my car though they had allowed the security vehicle to go toll-free."

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Palam in bloom

MOKARAM HOSSAIN

I came across Palam for the first time in the garden of the Botany Department at Dhaka University.

After quite a few years, I saw a good number of these trees in the hillocks of Sylhet. They were in full bloom, and I was reassured that the species is not extinct.

However, this species is under threat of extinction, as locals don't consider it of any value.

Palam grows in hilly regions, and is indigenous in Sylhet and Chittagong of

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Salahuddin again shifted to hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Shillong jail on Wednesday sent BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed to a specialised hospital for medical checks again after he reported some health complications.

Hours before sending him to the hospital, Chief Judicial Magistrate KML Nongbri of Shillong

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PRAYER TIMING

MAY 29

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-43 8-05

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-47 8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Fifa scam widens

Blatter defiant amid calls to quit as crisis polarises world; Putin accuses US of meddling as West demands change

REUTERS, Zurich

The corruption charges engulfing soccer's governing body have heaped shame and humiliation on the game, Fifa President Sepp Blatter said yesterday, although he flatly rejected calls to resign over the scandal.

With Fifa facing the worst crisis in its 111-year history, Michel Platini, who heads Europe's soccer confederation UEFA, said he had told Blatter to go "with tears in my eyes", but the 79-year-old had refused.

"I said, 'I'm asking you to leave, Fifa's image is terrible.' He said that he couldn't leave all of a sudden," Platini, a former French international, told reporters.

In a bullish speech opening a FIFA Congress in Zurich, Blatter said the turbulence of the last two days, which included the arrest of leading soccer officials at their luxury Swiss hotel, had brought "shame and humiliation" to world soccer.

Making his first public appearance since Wednesday's dramatic events, which were triggered by a US-led investigation into allegations of rampant bribe-taking, Blatter said there was no room "for corruption of any kind".

"The events of yesterday have cast a long shadow over football and this Congress," said Blatter, who is standing for a fifth mandate as FIFA president in today's election, where Prince Ali bin Al Hussein of Jordan is his only challenger.

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He could be next

Secular blogger fears after murder of three others

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A Bangladeshi blogger whose name is on a "hit-list" of secular writers drawn up by Islamist extremists fears he will be the next to die after three others were hacked to death.

Ananya Azad's own father survived a machete attack in 2004 after he wrote a critique of fundamentalism and he is now being threatened for his own work.

In the wake of the latest murder of Ananta Bijoy Das on May 12, Ananya Azad told the Guardian that he received a threatening Facebook message saying: "You would be the next person. So be careful."

"Anyone who has a critical view about religion is exposed," he said. "I probably have reduced my frequency of writing but my nature of writing has not changed."

Speaking to the Associated Press in

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

'Rapists' bragged about their crime

Says witness in Kuril rape case, 2 suspects on 10-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The duo who raped a girl in a running microbus in the capital's Kuril area on May 21 bragged about the crime the next day, a witness in the case told a magistrate yesterday.

The "rapists" -- Ashraf Khan alias Tushar and Jahidul Islam Lavlu -- were drivers at a garment buying house in Gulshan.

In a statement before Metropolitan Magistrate SM Masud Zaman, witness Mohammad Khokon, a fellow driver at the buying house, said he had heard the two describing the rape of the indigenous girl to some others at their office on May 22, court sources said.

Two other witnesses, Mahbub Hossain, a security guard at a building in Banani where Tushar's employer lives, and Nur Alam also gave statements yesterday.

Mahbub in his statement before Metropolitan Magistrate Hasibul Haque said he had seen Tushar driving out of the building around 8:00 in the night of May 21.

While leaving the building, Tushar told him that he would return in 10 minutes. But he came back around

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

'Drug peddler' killed in Rab 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion at Motijheel in the capital early yesterday.

The dead, Sheikh Altaf Hossain alias Sagar, 37, was accused in many cases filed with different police stations in Dhaka for illegal firearms and drugs trading, Saiful Islam, operation officer of Rab-3, told The Daily Star.

Also an assistant superintendent of police, Saiful claimed that acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 raided Motijheel area for recovering firearms around 1:30am.

As soon as the team reached near Sadeque Hossain Khoka community

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Approved Economic Zones (EZ)

1. Mongla EZ

2. Mirsharai EZ

3. Anwara (Gahira) EZ

4. Shreehatta EZ

5. Sirajganj EZ

6. Shreepur EZ

7. Sabrang Tourism Park

8. Anwara EZ-2

9. Dhaka IT SEZ

10. Jamalpur EZ

11. Narayanganj EZ

12. Bhola sadar EZ

13. Ashugonj EZ

14. Panchghar EZ

15. Narsingdi EZ

16. Manikgonj EZ

17. Kustia EZ

18. Agailjhara EZ

19. Nilphamari EZ

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21. Abdul Monem EZ

22. Garments Shilpa Park

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GD-1950

Pesticide used for slow, painful death in gas chamber

'Auschwitz bookkeeper' tells

MAIL ONLINE

The trial of a former SS guard has heard how the Nazis used a lethal pesticide to slowly and painfully kill over one million victims of the Holocaust.

Oskar Groening, now 93, a former accountant at Auschwitz, is on trial in Luneburg, Germany, for his involvement in the deaths of 300,000 Hungarian Jews at a Nazi camp in Poland in 1944.

Yesterday an expert delved into the horrendous properties of Zyklon-B gas, the pesticide used in the

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১৫তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী

সামস্যের ১৫ বছর

২০০০ সালের ২৯মে দেশজুড়ে ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক বীমা কোম্পানী পরিচালনার অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে ফারইষ্ট ইসলামী লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর যে যাত্রা শুরু হয়েছিল, সে বিশ্বাসে অটল থেকে দেখতে দেখতে আজ আমরা সামস্যের ১৬তম বছরে পদার্পন করছি। অসংখ্য গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীর নিরন্তর আস্থা আমাদের এ সফলতার চাবিকাঠি। আজকের আনন্দঘন এই দিনে সবাইকে জানাই আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।

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