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Thrashed by trash

City AL factions clash at Azimpur over dumping of garbage at venue of rival's programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The residents of Azimpur yesterday woke up to a bizarre sight: heaps of garbage dumped in front of the gates of a community centre.

While the bewildered people looked for answers, some leaders of Dhaka city's Awami League (AL) claimed that the trash was left there by their rival group to foil a programme scheduled to be held inside Pearl Harbour Community Centre, the location in question.

Party insiders said the rivalry between Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon and AL's Dhaka South City Unit's general secretary Shahey Alam Murad led to this situation.

Murad blamed the city corporation for the dumping, terming the incident 'unexpected'. He, however, said their programme was held successfully.

Angered by the apparent slight, AL men loyal to Murad began chanting slogans against the mayor and blamed him for the incident. However, the

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Heaps of garbage in front of a community centre in Azimpur yesterday. A group of Dhaka City Awami League leaders said their rivals dumped the rubbish the previous night to foil a party programme inside the community centre. *Inset*, a motorcycle is set on fire during a clash between the two AL groups over the incident.

PHOTO: STAR



HOLDING TAX INCREASE MPs want it reconsidered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior lawmakers, including a minister, in parliament expressed anger over the government's move to increase holding tax in Dhaka and Chittagong cities.

The MPs of treasury and opposition benches yesterday asked the government to reconsider the move and said the hike would have an adverse effect on the next general elections.

People were angered due to the government's decision to increase the tax to an "irrational" level, they said.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Jatiya Party MPs Sayed Abu Hossain Babla and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu spoke on the issue taking the floor on a point of order.

"It is normal that holding tax will increase after a certain period of time. But increasing holding tax by nine times at one go cannot be acceptable. People will not accept it. The move needs to be reconsidered," said Tofail.

He said if the holding tax was increased, for example to Tk 72,000 from Tk 8,000

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 17
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	5-05	12-30	3-45	5-22	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-25	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Care for Crows

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

In Kangalpara village of Botlagari union in Nilphamari district, first time visitors will be surprised to see many banners hanging on

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

This recent photo shows a flock of crows over Kangalpara village in Saidpur of Nilphamari. The village has turned into a sanctuary for the birds with efforts from a local voluntary organisation, Setubandhan, and Saidpur Police Station.

Bridging the gap

Dhaka Lit Fest begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seventh edition of Dhaka Lit Fest was inaugurated in the capital's Bangla Academy premises yesterday with expectations of bridging the gap between Bangla and English literature.

Ignoring the drizzling rain, local and international authors and book lovers thronged the premises of Bangla Academy to begin the 3 day-long festival.

Syrian poet Ali Ahmad

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COUP IN ZIMBABWE Mugabe resists pressure to quit

Meets envoys as military pushes ways for his graceful exit

REUTERS, Harare

President Robert Mugabe is insisting he remains Zimbabwe's only legitimate ruler and is refusing to quit after a military coup, but pressure is mounting on the 93-year-old former guerrilla to accept offers of a graceful exit, sources said yesterday.

A political source who spoke to senior allies holed up with Mugabe and his wife, Grace, in his lavish "Blue Roof" Harare compound said Mugabe had no plans to resign voluntarily ahead of elections scheduled for next year.

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