



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM Fees taken, service not ensured

*BRTA took Tk 560cr from vehicle owners in 4 years*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

When the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority introduced what is popularly known as digital number plate in 2012, it made promises of gaining the ability to track vehicles that have been stolen or used in criminal activities.

For the mandatory plates and radiofrequency identification (RFID) tags, motorcycle or three-wheeler owners have since been paying Tk 2,260 and four-wheeler owners Tk 4,628.

In the last four years alone, the BRTA raked in Tk 560 crore for providing 16.12 lakh plates and tags, according to BRTA documents.

But vehicle owners have hardly ever enjoyed the benefits because there are only 12 check posts to read the tags and all of them are in Dhaka.

The BRTA also does not engage anyone to monitor the system round the clock.

"They took our money in the name of service. I have never heard anyone getting the service," said Ahmed Rafi, whose uncle's motorcycle was stolen a few months ago.

Many owners do not even know about the system.

Masuk Rana, a private employee, said he filed a case with Mirpur Police Station after his motorcycle got stolen from his home in Mirpur-2 in October last year. Whenever he contacted the police, they told him to wait.

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Rajshahi Royals skipper Andre Russell holds aloft the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League Trophy as his teammates celebrate a memorable campaign after a 21-run win over Khulna Tigers in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Stop recurrence of scams in banking sector

*Full text of HC judgment stresses accountability of bank boards*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has stressed the need for preventing financial scams in the banking sector.

In the full text of a verdict, it said some sensational financial scams involving a few banks have surfaced recently.

"It is appreciable that specific measures have been taken by the government organisations, including Bangladesh Bank, and that the Anti-Corruption Commission are investigating the scams. But we have to think and analyse [information] on the scams to prevent such crimes in the future," the HC said in the text, which has been released recently.

Putting emphasis on the modernisation of banking policies, the court also observed that bank managements, including the board of directors, must be transparent and accountable to the

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## DHAKA CITY POLLS 2020

### Govt okay with change of date

*Says Quader amid persistent demand for deferral of the polls*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing pressure on the Election Commission to shift the January 30 Dhaka city elections, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said his party or the government had no objection to changing the polls date.

Over the last few days, members of the Hindu community and Dhaka University students have been requesting the EC to change the election date that coincides with Saraswati Puja, a major religious festival of the Hindus.

Meanwhile, at least 10 DU students fell sick while observing a hunger strike unto death at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding deferral of Dhaka north and south city corporation polls. Two of them were hospitalised.

Also, DU Vice-chancellor Prof M Akhtaruzzaman expressed solidarity with the protesters and urged the EC to hold the polls on a different date.

The Awami League or the government has no objection to changing the polls date as puja will be held on January 30. It is under the jurisdiction of the EC, reports BSS, quoting Quader, also road transport and bridges minister.

He was addressing a press conference at AL president's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi after a party's secretary-level meeting.

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### EC doubles the budget

*To spend Tk 40 crore this time*

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission will spend around Tk 40 crore for holding the Dhaka city polls on January 30, almost double the amount spent in the previous elections in 2015.

Nearly half of the amount will be spent on the law enforcement agencies, including the police and Rapid Action Battalion, said EC officials.

Election Commission Senior Secretary M Alamgir said, "We have finalised the budget for the polls to Dhaka north and south city corporations."

The finance ministry has already approved the budget proposal, he told The Daily Star.

Alamgir said the budget went up as the EC had to arrange mock voting with Electronic Voting Machine and carry out campaigns

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## Russell scripts Rajshahi's BBPL triumph

SPORTS REPORTER

The Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur erupted with fireworks last night moments after Rajshahi Royals skipper Andre Russell erupted with a roar. He had bowled the last ball of the match, and in the process ensured that he became the first foreign captain to get his hands on a Bangladesh Premier League trophy in the tournament's seventh edition.

In a pulsating final of the special edition of the tournament, named the Bangabandhu BPL to commemorate the birth centenary of father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rajshahi beat Khulna Tigers by 21 runs to win their first BPL trophy. Russell, who had single-handedly carried the team to the final with a 22-ball 54 against Chattogram Challengers in the second qualifier on Wednesday, was adjudged the player-of-the-match. The West Indian hit a muscular 16-ball 27 to help lift the total to 170 for four, before taking two wickets for 32 runs - including the prize scalp of Khulna skipper Mushfiqur Rahim

- to help restrict Khulna to 149 for eight.

Khulna started badly in chase of the challenging total, losing both openers inside two overs after adding just 11 runs. Khulna's resurgence was then ensured by Shamsur Rahman and Rilee Rossouw. The duo strung together a crucial 74-run third-wicket stand before Rossouw was dismissed in the 11th over, leaving Khulna at 85 for three.

The chase lost steam once again after Shamsur fell to a Kamrul Islam delivery in the 14th over after scoring a valiant 52 off 43 balls, which included four boundaries and two maximums.

However, as long as Mushfiqur was at the wicket, Khulna had a chance. That is why Russell celebrated with vigour when he bowled his opposite number with an inch-perfect yorker in the 18th over to cut Khulna down to 134 for six.

Rajshahi pacer Mohammad Irfan also bowled brilliantly, allowing just 18 runs from his four over while taking two wickets. He ensured that there would not be any late surge from Khulna by conceding just one

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## It's a case of harassment

*Noted personalities express concern over case against Prothom Alo editor, 9 others*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-seven noted citizens yesterday protested and condemned the filing of a case against Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman and nine others over the death of Naimul Abrar Rahat, a student of Dhaka Residential Model College.

"We consider this case to be motivated based on the manner in which various important government persons have made statements regarding this case, and the manner in which the editor of Prothom Alo has been implicated in this case," they said in a statement.

Even though the legal proceedings could have continued with issuance of a summons, an arrest warrant was issued, they said.

By issuing the arrest warrant a few hours before the weekly holiday, the opportunity to seek protection from a higher court has been significantly reduced, they added.

"There is no way of considering this case as separate from the attacks one after another on freedom of expression in the country."

They demanded that the Prothom Alo editor and all other accused get complete legal remedy.

They urged all to refrain from using such cases to curb press freedom.

The signatories to the statement are: Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, former advisor to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan, former cabinet secretary

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## Punjab passes anti-CAA resolution

*CM says draft sent to Centre to make changes to new law*

NDTV ONLINE

The Congress-led Punjab government yesterday passed a resolution against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the state assembly, becoming the second state in the country to do so after Kerala.

"We have sent a draft to Centre to make changes necessary to make Citizenship Amendment Act acceptable to everyone. Census is being carried out now, it will be done on old level. Every citizen will be counted whether he is Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Christian or anybody," Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh was quoted as saying by news agency ANI after the resolution got passed in the assembly.

Minister Brahm Mohindra moved the resolution in the Assembly by saying that the new

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