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# Rickshaws ply VIP roads thru' bribery

HELEMUL ALAM

Rickshaws are plying the city streets that are off-limits to non-motorised vehicles by bribing law enforcers.

This increases accident risk and worsens the severe traffic congestion in the capital.

Rickshaws are seen plying the "VIP roads", even in front of the Prime Minister's Office. Passengers on those rickshaws seem to be ignoring the risk of getting rear ended.

Mirpur Road, Panthapath, Manik Mian Avenue, Phoenix Road, Ittefaq intersection to Bangabhaban, Hatirjheel, Gulshan Link Road and on occasion even Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue tell the same story.

"Traffic police receive Tk 80 a day from each rickshaw for letting the three-wheelers use the streets between Farmgate and Asad Gate intersection," a rickshaw puller told The Daily Star recently.

This trend of allowing rickshaws to ply specific streets had begun just before Eid-ul-Fitr, in August, when traffic police, in exchange for petty bribes, relaxed the rules and allowed rickshaws and now-often-seen battery-run rickshaws to ply streets close to shopping malls.

The illegal battery-run rickshaws have now become a

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Rickshaws plying on Abdul Gani Road near the Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital on Tuesday in violation of traffic rules. The road is off limits to rickshaws.

PHOTO: STAR

## BANGLADESH RMG IndustriALL appoints officials to ensure safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh has appointed Brad Loewen, an administrator of Canadian City of Winnipeg, as the chief safety inspector as part of its aims to deliver a safer working environment for garment workers in Bangladesh.

Sean Ansett, the Accord's interim executive director, announced the appointments of Brad Loewen as the chief safety inspector, Alan Roberts as the executive director of international operations, and Rob Wayss as the executive director of Bangladesh operations, IndustriALL Global Union said in a statement Friday.

All three appointees would start work within the next seven weeks, the statement said.

"The quality of candidates has meant that we have been able to bring an incredible depth of experience to these key roles. The

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## VERDICT IN MOLLAH CASE SC to release full text in mid-Nov

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court is likely to release in mid-November the full text of its verdict that awarded Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah death penalty for his crimes during the Liberation War.

Additional Attorney General and chief coordinator of the prosecution MK Rahman has expressed the hope saying the release of the full text would clear the way for the verdict execution.

SC sources said two of the five apex court judges, who delivered the judgment, had already completed writing their parts of the verdict. As soon as all

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## Work for AL to get it elected again

### Hasina asks party-backed upazila chairmen, municipality mayors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government had implemented much more than what her party pledged ahead of the last election.

She expressed hope that the Awami League would be re-elected.

"I believe we will be able to come to power again," she said while addressing a views exchange meeting at the Gono Bhaban in the capital.

More than 1,000 AL-backed elected representatives of local government bodies, including 348 upazila chairmen, 680 vice-

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chairmen, 179 municipality mayors and one city corporation mayor attended the meeting, the first of its kind.

Speaking at the meeting, most upazila chairmen alleged that local MPs and upazila nirbahi officers interfered in their job and that they apparently had no power and monetary allocation to carry out development work in their areas.

They said there was a serious conflict between them and the lawmakers and upazila nirbahi officers, and that the local government laws have to be toughened to curb lawmakers

## Maldives polls stalled

### India calls for vote without delay

AFP, Male

Police in the Maldives forced the postponement of yesterday's presidential polls, declaring the vote illegal in a decision that sparked international concern.

The Elections Commission just hours earlier had announced the vote would go ahead as planned despite 11th-hour court challenges by two candidates who were

expected to lose to a former president.

"We continued with preparations for voting, but the Maldives Police Service have said no documents connected to the election can leave the commission's offices," Commission Chairman Fuwad Thowfeek said, adding a new election date would be announced later.

The police announcement meant the

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PRAYER TIMING			October 20
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4:50	5:25	
Zohr	12:45	1:15	
Asr	4:00	4:15	
Maghrib	5:36	5:39	
Esha	7:15	7:45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			



Five people, apparently of a family, ride a motorbike with none of them wearing any safety gear. The photo was taken near Nayapaltan in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the main opposition BNP and its alliance will accept Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposal to form an all-party election-time government?

Yes

No

(21%)

(79%)


TOTAL VOTES: 235

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to impose an indefinite ban on meetings, processions and rallies as BNP is preparing to hold an anti-government rally on October 25?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net



'Electronic blood' for computer

BBC ONLINE

IBM has unveiled a prototype of a new brain-inspired computer powered by what it calls "electronic blood".

The firm says it is learning from nature by building computers fuelled and cooled by a liquid, like our minds.

The human brain packs phenomenal computing power into a tiny space and

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