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DRIVING OFFENCES

Cabinet okays tougher law

Jail, fine for driving without valid licence, using fake licence, reckless driving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a draft law requiring education up to at least eighth grade for getting driving licences, and providing for harsher punishments for offences on roads.

The law, "Road Transport Act-2017", also makes mandatory minimum fifth-grade education to work as a helper or assistant.

"Big changes have been brought into the draft law as the transport sector nowadays has become very vibrant," Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shaful Alam told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

Twelve-point driving licences will be issued after the law is brought into effect.

Every time a driver will violate rules like exceeding the speed limit, one point will be reduced. His licence will be cancelled for losing all the points, Shaful Alam explained.

This new system reflects laws of different countries on issuing driving licences, he added.

As per the proposed law, the punishment for driving any vehicle without a license is maximum 6 months jail or Tk 50,000 fine or both. Earlier according to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance-1983 the punishment was three months' jail or Tk 25,000 fine or both.

The new law also incorporates provisions of punishment for using a cell phone while driving and of transport management. Severe penalties ranging from one month jail to three-month jail and Tk 5,000-Tk 35,000 fine will also be

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An underage boy drives a locally-made motorised three-wheeler on Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday, defying a government ban. Such unauthorised vehicles often pose risk of accidents. Thirteen people were killed on Sunday when such a vehicle collided head-on with a speeding truck in Chuadanga.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN



FORTUNE MAGAZINE
Abed placed on greatest leaders' list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed has been selected as one of "The World's 50 Greatest Leaders" by Fortune magazine.

Fortune lauded Abed's role in rebuilding Bangladesh after some 10 million refugees returned home following the Liberation War in 1971.

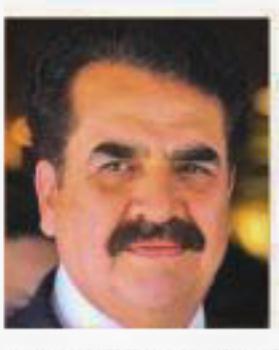
A former corporate executive, Abed set up Brac in 1972 as a relief operation agency to help the country recover from war.

Later, the organisation initiated a programme to find ways to tackle poverty, empower women and

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SAUDI-LED ALLIANCE Pakistan's ex-army chief to head it

HINDUSTANTIMES ONLINE



The Pakistan government has cleared a move to make former army chief Gen Raheel Sharif the head of a military alliance of 39 Muslim countries created by Saudi Arabia, defence minister Khawaja Asif has said.

Soon after Sharif completed his term last year, it was reported in December that

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Raheel Sharif

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Comilla in election mood

Candidates of city polls make last-minute campaign today; voting Thursday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

With the Comilla city polls only a day away, around two-week electioneering will end at midnight tonight.

Candidates have launched a last-minute campaign in the city to garner support.

Restriction on outsiders staying in the city is already in force since early today. Besides, a ban will be imposed on movement of motorcycles in the city from early tomorrow.

Movement of all modes of transport will be restricted on polling day. However, vehicles with special stickers from the Election Commission and those of fire service, postal, power, water and gas supply authorities and ambulances will remain out

of the purview of the ban.

The restrictions will be put in place as per electoral laws to hold the polls in a free, fair and peaceful manner, said EC officials.

Four candidates are contesting the mayoral post and 154 are running for 36 posts of ward councillors. They launched electoral campaign on March 15 after they were allocated election symbols on the same day.

The city has been in a festive mood for the last two weeks, with candidates and their supporters holding rallies, bringing out processions and going door-to-door to woo voters. They have put thousands of posters, banners and other electoral campaign materials on display in city streets.

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Melons sold for £21,500 in Japan

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Some days, you treat yourself to organic raspberries and mangoes. Other days, when it's been a while since payday, perhaps you stick to apples and bananas.

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Turkish PM phones Hasina

Pledges to work together in fighting terrorism

UNB, Dhaka

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim yesterday expressed his country's willingness to work together with Bangladesh to curb militancy.

He was talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the phone in the evening.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said Yildirim condemned the blasts in

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Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (second from R) and teammates Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz do a bit of football practice during a training session in Dambulla yesterday. The Tigers will take on hosts Sri Lanka in the second ODI of the three-match series today.

PHOTO:
AFP

Fresh political crisis hits Maldives

Troops evict opposition MPs from parliament

AFP, Male

Security forces physically ejected protesting MPs from the Maldives parliament yesterday in chaotic scenes during a failed opposition attempt to impeach the speaker and destabilise the president ahead of elections next year.

Lawmakers shouted and stood on their chairs and one tried to remove the speaker's seat ahead of the impeachment vote, which came a day after exiled opposition leader

Mohamed Nasheed announced a unity pact with the president's powerful half-brother -- the former strongman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Nasheed had hoped that the surprise alliance with Gayoom, who is still nominally head of the ruling party, would provide enough parliamentary support to oust the speaker, but even with that deal the opposition Maldives Democratic party

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MITU MURDER: ARMS CASE
Court records deposition of plaintiff

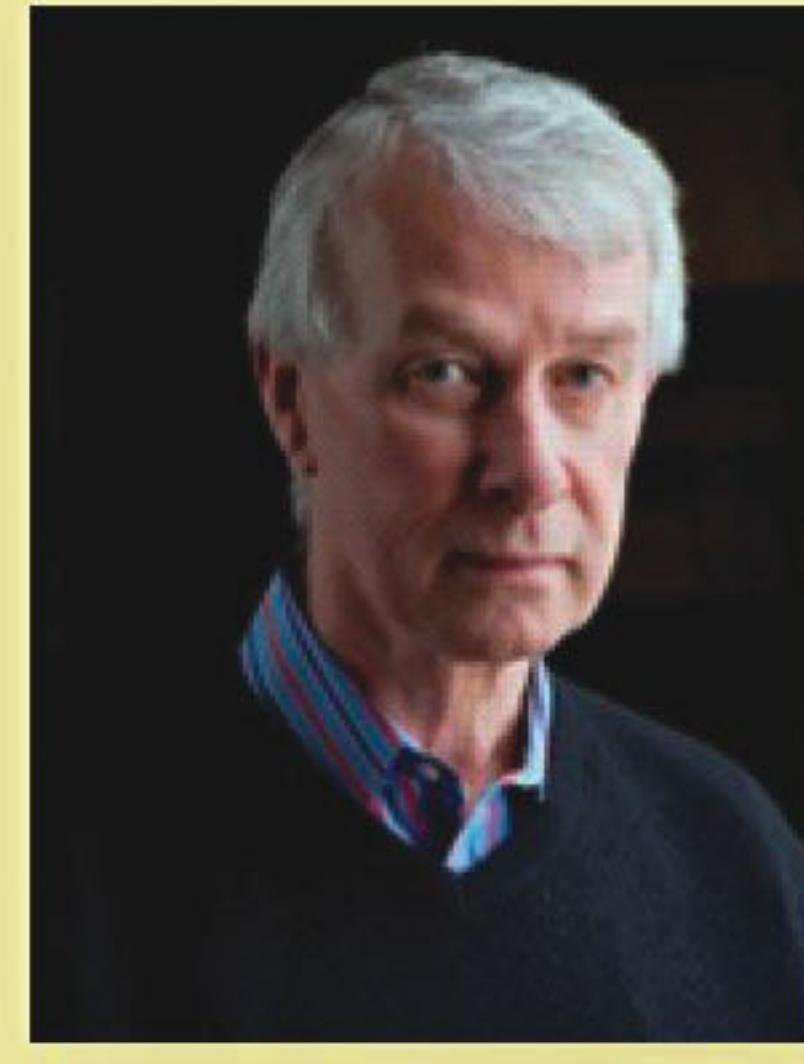
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court hearing a firearms case centring the murder of former superintendent of police Babul Akter wife's Mahmuda Khanam Mitu yesterday completed recording the plaintiff's deposition.

A bail prayer of one of the two accused, Ehteshamul Haque Bhola,

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