



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS



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PRIVATE ARMED GUARDS Firearms law flouted at will

SAJJADUR RAHMAN with INAM AHMED

Many private banks and influential individuals are illegally employing armed guards in violation of the firearms law.

Different security service providers supply the armed guards, most of whom are ex-servicemen who have firearm licence.

But according to the law, individuals having arms licence are not allowed to provide security to anybody or any property but their own. If someone violates this provision, their licence is supposed to be revoked immediately.

Not only that, the law also says an individual having an arms licence cannot work as an armed guard.

Organisations must get licences in their own names in case they want to have their property guarded by armed people. Those licences would not allow providing security to any other properties or individuals.

However, the law is being violated widely by many banks and individuals.

A number of top bankers said the Bangladesh Bank has recently asked them to obtain firearm licences for every branch of a bank. Since getting the licences are very cumbersome and time-consuming, the banks went to security firms to hire gunmen.

The security service providing firms find the situation quite tricky.

"We are not authorised to provide armed guards and yet we have to provide service to the clients. Otherwise, we would lose business," said the managing director of a top security firm.

"So, we hire ex-servicemen who have licences and since such people are few in number they charge us exorbitant

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Policemen stationed near a toll booth on the First Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in Dhaka's Postogola yesterday. Security was beefed up on the bridge after a youth was killed during a clash over toll hike on Friday. The authorities did not collect toll from vehicles yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BURIGANGA BRIDGE-1 A day after protest, no toll collected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Toll collection at the First Bangladesh-China Friendship (Buriganga 1) Bridge remained suspended yesterday, a day after a clash over toll hike left a person dead and scores of others injured.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) officials said vehicles would not have to pay toll for using the bridge until a decision was reached.

However, transport workers said they would not accept any decision except cancellation of the toll collection and threatened a tougher movement if their demand was not met.

"We aren't observing any programme today. But we will go back to the street if they start collecting toll again," Tajul Islam, president of Bangladesh Inter District Truck Drivers' Union, said yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Khorshed Alam, the lessee of the bridge, said they were

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Amend Digital Security Act in this JS session

Speakers ask govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded that the government amend the Digital Security Act-2018 in the current session of parliament.

Not only the journalists, but also the people would be affected by the controversial sections of the act, as media would not be able to unveil corruption, they said.

Law Reporters Forum organised the discussion titled "Free Mass Media: In the context of Digital Security Act" at the Jatiya Press Club.

Parliament on September 19 passed the act amid huge criticism over several sections of the law. Editors and right activities said the sections would restrict free-thinking, freedom of speech, expression, and the media.

From a human chain programme on October 15, the Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), demanded proper amendments to nine sections of the act in the last session of the current parliament for the sake of independent journalism and

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SL crisis worsens

President suspends parliament; EU, US call for rule of law; India says it is 'closely watching' developments

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena suspended parliament yesterday to forestall a challenge against his surprise ouster of the prime minister, deepening a sudden swell of political turmoil in the island nation.

Police cancelled all leave as tensions heightened in Colombo a day after the president dismissed Ranil Wickremesinghe and replaced him with controversial former strongman leader Mahinda Rajapakse, who ended the country's long civil war but was accused of rights abuses and rampant corruption.

Parliamentary officials said the president had suspended parliament until November 16. Wickremesinghe had earlier demanded an emergency session to prove he still commanded a majority.

Wickremesinghe continued to occupy Temple Trees, the official residence of the prime minister, and insisted in a letter to Sirisena that he was still in office.

"Get this controversy out of the way," Wickremesinghe told reporters in a press conference at the residence. "Reconvene parliament immediately so that I can prove my majority."

Parliamentary sources said Speaker Karu Jayasuriya would now have to decide if he recognised Rajapakse or Wickremesinghe as the prime minister.

The falling out between the two former allies has come to a rapid head since Sirisena earlier this year backed a no-confidence motion against the man he had handpicked to lead the government.

Sirisena initially said he would be a one-term president, but later indicated he will seek a second term that would pit him against Wickremesinghe who also has presidential ambitions.



Rajapakse

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That jailer lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Sohel Rana Biswas, the jailer who has recently been arrested with over Tk 44 lakh, fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) and Phensedyl, was produced before a Kishoreganj court yesterday evening.

Sohel, who worked as a jailer at Chattogram Central Jail, was arrested by police Friday noon and produced before the court of Senior Chief Judicial Magistrate in Kishoreganj with a remand prayer for seven days around 6:30pm, court inspector Toufiq Ahmed said.

The court fixed tomorrow to hear the remand prayer and sent Soheli to jail, said the court inspector.

Sohel was travelling to his home town Mymensingh by Bijoy Express from Chattogram when police, acting on information, raided the train at Bhairab Railway

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The more followers, the more free sushi

Restaurant where one can pay in Instagram followers

ODDITY CENTRAL ONLINE



Social media promotion has become so important nowadays that businesses are offering freebies to anyone with a certain following on popular social networks. Case in point, this Milan-based restaurant that offers free sushi to people with a bit of clout on Instagram.

Matteo and Tomaso Pittarello, the owners of the "This Is Not a Sushibar" restaurant in Milan, are

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Dissolve JS before polls schedule

Rountable urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should dissolve parliament before the announcement of schedule for the 11th national election to ensure a level playing field, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

The country would face dire consequences if the government moved ahead to hold the election like the previous one in 2014, warned the speakers, who included a former adviser to a caretaker government, a former cabinet secretary, a former ambassador and an economist.

The Dhaka Forum (TDF) organised the programme titled "National Election of Bangladesh" at the Jatiya Press Club.

"Only three to four days remain before announcement of the polls schedule. But the government still can

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An instructor shows visitors how to use an electronic voting machine at a stall on the premises of Sylhet Zila Parishad Bhaban yesterday. The regional election office organised a daylong fair where 10 EVMs were put on display for voters.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

Gunman kills eleven in US synagogue

AFP, Pittsburgh

A gunman opened fire on Jewish worshippers at a synagogue in the US city of Pittsburgh yesterday, leaving 11 people dead according to US media, in what appeared to be one of the worst anti-Semitic attacks in American history.

The shooter -- identified by media as a 46-year-old white man -- reportedly yelled anti-Jewish slurs as he launched the attack at the Tree of Life synagogue during a baby naming ceremony.

The suspect was taken into police custody and transferred to hospital.

Dozens of people were gathered during Sabbath services at the time of the attack, which federal investigators were treating as

a hate crime.

President Donald Trump hit out at a climate of "hate" in America and beyond -- while his daughter Ivanka, a convert to Judaism, denounced a "depraved" attack and Vice President Mike Pence called it "an assault on our freedom of religion."

"There must be no tolerance for anti-Semitism," the president told supporters at a campaign event for next month's midterm elections. "This wicked act of mass murder is pure evil, hard to believe, and, frankly, something that is unimaginable."

"Our nation and the world are shocked and stunned by the grief."

As police cars, ambulances and a SWAT team surrounded the synagogue in the

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Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing October 28
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JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45
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