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





**MATARBARI POWER PLANT**  
Cox's Bazar

**PROUD  
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# Law to protect authorities, not people

Speakers slam Digital Security Act at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recently passed Digital Security Act would only protect the authorities while gagging free speech, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

"The way the government passed the law ignoring the concerns from journalists and civil society members is repressive," said Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University.

The government takes credit for "making the country digital", but seems to be afraid of speech on digital platforms, he said, adding the Digital Security Act is a result of that fear.

The discussion was organised by Samajtantrik Chhatra Front at Dhaka University's TSC.

Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said the wording in the law was so vague that police could arrest almost anyone if they wanted.

For criminal proceedings, an offence has to be defined clearly and specifically, he said.

Citing examples of misuse of the ICT Act, he said in almost 87 percent of the cases filed under its section 57, the accused were acquitted.

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Villagers take part in a traditional fishing festival in Shail Sindur canal using handmade tools of bamboo in Sakhipur upazila of Tangail last week.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BLASPHEMY CASE Pakistan SC acquits Christian woman

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday overturned the conviction of Asia Bibi, a Christian mother facing execution for blasphemy, in a landmark case which has incited deadly violence and reached as far as the Vatican.

Blasphemy is an incendiary charge in deeply conservative Muslim Pakistan, where even unproven allegations of insulting Islam and its Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) can provoke death at the hands of vigilantes -- and the acquittal immediately sparked large protests from hardliners.

Bibi appeared to be in state of disbelief after hearing

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## Khashoggi was strangled and 'cut into pieces'

Confirms Turkey

AFP, Istanbul

Journalist Jamal Khashoggi was strangled as soon as he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and then dismembered as part of a premeditated plan, Turkey's chief prosecutor said yesterday, making details of the murder public for the first time.

The revelations came just hours after Saudi Arabia's chief prosecutor left Istanbul, and the Turkish prosecutor's office said it was "obliged" to reveal the details after the talks produced "no concrete results".

Gruesome reports in the Turkish media had previously alleged that Khashoggi, a 59-year-old Washington Post contributor critical of the powerful Saudi crown prince, had been killed and cut into pieces by a team sent from Riyadh to silence him.

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## ICU IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS Just 12 beds for entire Ctg region

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

Twenty-two-year-old Abu Taleb underwent an operation in a private hospital in the port city two days after being injured in a road accident at Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar on September 3. Due to post operative complications, Taleb required intensive care support. The hospital, however, lacked this facility.

Taleb's family wanted to shift him to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). As the hospital had all 12 of their ICU beds occupied, Taleb, a tea-seller at Chiringa in Chakaria, was shifted to the ICU of another private hospital.

Taleb's brother Muslem Uddin said their family had to pay Tk 1.76 lakh to the hospital.

"We had to sell a cow and two decimals of land to pay the hospital charge," Muslem said while speaking to The Daily Star.

After a week, Taleb was lucky enough to get a bed in the ICU of CMCH and was shifted there.

"In CMCH, our daily expense was around Tk 1,000 per day for medicines. There were no other charges to be paid," said Muslem.

Patients from Noakhali, Feni, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Chattogram come to CMCH for ICU services as it is the only government hospital in the region that provides the service.

But not everyone is as lucky as Taleb to get a bed in the ICU of the hospital, due to its limited number of beds.

CMCH introduced ICU services in 2005 with six beds. The number of

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## TRANSPORT STRIKE Take action over death of 3 infants: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the inspector general of police to take appropriate action against the unruly transport workers who are responsible for the death of three infants and creating chaos during the 48-hour road transport strike.

The IGP has been asked to take steps on the basis of footage and newspaper reports and submit a report to the court in 15 days, Deputy Attorney General Mokhesur Rahman told The Daily Star.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also asked the police chief to explain in the report what action had been taken against the transport workers who were responsible for

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## World's tallest statue opens



REUTERS, Kevadia

India yesterday inaugurated the world's tallest statue, a \$400-million effigy of independence hero Vallabhbhai Patel that towers nearly twice the height of New York's Statue of Liberty.

The 182-metre (597-ft) steel and bronze "Statue of Unity", in the prime minister's western home state of Gujarat, is part of his Hindu nationalist party's efforts to re-brand what it calls "forgotten" leaders.

"Patel wanted India to be a forceful, strong, sensitive, vigilant and accommodative nation, and we're working towards that," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at yesterday's ceremony.

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### DOING BUSINESS INDEX

#### Bangladesh 1 notch up

Bangladesh ranked 176th out of 190 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index this year, the lowest ranking for a South Asian country.

However, the country's ranking has gone up one notch this time, says the WB report published yesterday.

DETAILS IN STAR BUSINESS



### PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-15  
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 4-15 5-34 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

### KHALEDA VERDICT

## At least 130 held over protest

STAR REPORT

At least 130 Jatiya Oikyafront, BNP and Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists have been arrested across the country in last two days since Tuesday in connection with protests against the verdict in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

In Dhaka, around 20 BNP men including Sramik Dal president Anwar Hossain was arrested soon after end of a human chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, BNP Assistant Organising Secretary Abdus Salam Azad told UNB.

Several hundred leaders and activists attended the programme to protest against conviction of Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the corruption case, he added.

The arrestees include Dhaka north city unit organising secretary Farroque Hossain, and leaders Amir Hossain, Ripon, Mahbubur Rahman Dipu and Mostak Sarker, Azad said, adding, the arrestees were taken to

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A BNP activist being dragged into a pickup on Sadar Road in Barishal city yesterday afternoon. Five leaders and activists of the party were arrested when they formed a human chain and brought out a procession to protest a court verdict that convicted their party chief Khaleda Zia.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

### 'SHOOTOUTS' GO ON

## Three more killed

STAR REPORT

Three people, including two suspected drug peddlers, were killed in separate "gunfights" with police in Kushtia and Mymensingh early yesterday.

In Kushtia Sadar, suspected drug peddler Mohammad Azam, 45, was killed in a reported gunfight with police when the law enforcers carried out a raid in Kaburhat village around 2:30am on information that two drug peddling gangs had gathered


there, said Officer-in-Charge of Kushtia Police Station Nasir Uddin.

The drug peddlers opened fire at police, prompting a gunfight that left Azam dead, he claimed, adding that the man was earlier accused in 13 cases related to narcotics.

Police also claimed to have recovered 900 yaba pills from the spot.

Another suspected drug peddler killed in similar incident at Muslimnagar char in the district's Daulatpur upazila was identified


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**বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল**  
**BANGLADESH MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL**  
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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে ঢাকাস্থ ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে কনসালটেন্ট, মেডিসিন হিসাবে কর্মরত ডাঃ নাজমুল ইসলামের চিকিৎসা কার্যে অদক্ষতা, অবহেলা ও গাফিলতির বিষয় প্রমানিত হওয়ায় বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল আইন, ২০১০ (৬১নং আইন) এর ২৩ (১) ধারায় প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে বিএমএন্ডডিসি হইতে প্রদত্ত তাঁহার রেজিস্ট্রেশন (Registration No. A- 18765) ০১-১১-২০১৮ইং তারিখ হইতে ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের জন্য স্থগিত করা হইল। উল্লেখিত সময়ে বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল আইন, ২০১০ (৬১নং আইন) এর ধারা ২২(১) অনুযায়ী তিনি কোথাও কোনরূপ চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদান করিতে পারিবেন না। এমনকি উক্ত সময়ে তিনি নিজেকে চিকিৎসক হিসাবে পরিচয় দিতে পারিবেন না।

  
রেজিস্ট্রার  
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল