



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



MATARBARI POWER PLANT Cox's Bazar

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## ROAD TRANSPORT ACT 2018

# Not in force yet

President signed the bill a month ago, but govt yet to publish it in gazette; 'pressure from transport sector' causing the delay

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Road Transport Act-2018 is yet to be brought into effect a month after the president's approval, allegedly due to a movement against the law by transport workers.

The act was approved by the president on October 8-- the same day the Digital Security Act-2018 was approved. The laws were passed in parliament on September 19. However, the Digital Security Act has already come into force with "immediate effect" and several cases have been filed under the controversial law.

Road-safety campaigners alleged that the delay in implementation of the law was due to pressure created by transport workers and a number of officials at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) have agreed with the claims.

"We think the top authority is taking time ... due to pressure from transport workers," said an official of the BRTA, preferring anonymity.

Road and transport ministry officials, however, said that the delay stems from inability in completing the rules of procedure.

Nazrul Islam, secretary of Road Transport and Highway Division, told The Daily Star last week, "The rules [of procedure] are necessary to implement the law. And we have already directed the BRTA to formulate the rules."

He also said that it was not true that transport workers' movement, that virtually crippled the country recently, was related to the delay.

"It normally takes six months to formulate rules of procedure," said Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua, adding, "But in our country, it is not followed in many cases. There are instances where rules have not been formulated for years but the laws have come into effect."

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Rows of hives kept by beekeepers at the backyard of a house in Tangail's Nagarpur Upazila. Beekeepers from far away come to the area every winter to set up colonies near mustard fields. The picture was taken last week.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

## Khaleda talks politics at Niko hearing

Says BNP men kept busy in cases ahead of polls

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday told a Dhaka court that her party leaders had been kept busy with cases at a time when the preparation for the national election was underway.

She made the comment before a make-shift court inside the old Dhaka central jail during the hearing on charge framing against her and 10 others in the Niko graft case.

Sitting in a wheelchair, Khaleda said the case was filed to harass her politically and she was produced before the court despite being sick.

BNP standing committee member

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## Lanka in power vacuum

Parliament sacks new PM; president likely to hand over power to sacked PM's party

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's parliament yesterday voted out the bitterly disputed government of former strongman Mahinda Rajapakse, removing one controversial figure but leaving the country in a power vacuum.

The island nation has been in crisis since the president sacked prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on October 26 and replaced him with Rajapakse, who served as president until being voted out three years ago.

On Tuesday the Supreme Court overruled the president's dissolution of parliament and halted preparations for a snap election, in a major boost for the ousted prime minister.

In stormy scenes yesterday, legislators gave their verdict on the two rivals -- with a majority in the 225-member assembly supporting a no-confidence motion against Rajapakse.



Rajapakse

Parliament also passed motions declaring illegal the November 9 proclamations made by President Maithripala Sirisena to enshrine the powershift.

The result however does not automatically mean that Wickremesinghe, who has refused to leave the prime minister's residence, has won the constitutional showdown.

An aide of Sirisena told AFP that he was most likely to hand over power to Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) after Rajapakse failed to defeat the no-trust move.

A cabinet member loyal to Sirisena, Media Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara said yesterday's vote was "unethical" as it was rushed despite their protests.

However, he said the president would resolve the power vacuum "in a very short time".

Day-to-day administration remains paralysed as

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## 'Robocop' on patrol at S'pore summit



AFP, Singapore

Hi-tech Singapore has deployed an autonomous robot with a swivelling camera for a head and flashing lights to patrol a summit venue -- arresting the attention of amused passers-by who stopped to snap selfies.

The white, four-wheeled buggy, measuring about five-feet (1.5 metres), trundled around the perimeter of a convention centre in the city-state, providing additional security at a meeting of world leaders.

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## ROHINGYA PERSECUTION Pence issues sharp rebuke to Suu Kyi

REUTERS, Singapore

US Vice President Mike Pence yesterday expressed the Trump administration's strongest condemnation yet of Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya Muslims, telling leader Aung San Suu Kyi that "persecution" by her country's army was "without excuse".

Pence also pressed Suu Kyi to pardon two Reuters journalists who were arrested nearly a year ago and sentenced in September to seven years in prison for breaching the Official Secrets Act.

"The violence and

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Migrants from Central American countries -mostly Hondurans- moving towards the United States in hopes of a better life, walk along the road between Zapopan and Tequila in the Mexican state of Jalisco, on their trek north, on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## BARRING OF REPORTER US judge to hold hearing on CNN's suit

REUTERS, Washington

A federal judge said he would hold a hearing on CNN's lawsuit against the Trump administration seeking the speedy reinstatement of press credentials for White House correspondent Jim Acosta, a frequent target of President Donald Trump.

In its lawsuit filed on Tuesday in US District Court in Washington, the cable news network said the White House violated the First Amendment right to free speech as well as the due process clause of the Constitution providing fair treatment through judicial process. The network asked for a temporary restraining order.

Sarah Sanders, the White House press secretary, dismissed the action as "just more grandstanding

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## WEALTH STATEMENT CASE

# Destiny chairman jailed for 3 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Chairman Mohammad Hossain to three years in jail in a corruption case.

Judge Sheikh Golam Mahbub of Special Judge Court-6 also fined him Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to serve additional three months in prison.

Earlier, both the prosecution and defence completed their arguments. Five witnesses testified against the defendant in the case filed for refusing to submit his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

On June 15, 2016, the anti-graft watchdog sent a notice to

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## REMEMBRANCE



With great love and respect, we remember today our beloved mother, Syeda Razia Faiz. She left us all 5 years ago, on the 15th November 2013 for her eternal abode.

May Allah Grant her blessings and eternal peace, and ease our hearts from the pain of her absence. The Quran khani, feeding of orphans and a Milad mehfil will be held on this day of 15th November 2018 at different locations of the country. We humbly request all family members, friends, colleagues and well wishers to keep HER in your prayers.

Munia, Osman and Aman on behalf of the entire Faiz family

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## 'Gunfight' again: One killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A suspected drug trader was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Sumon Mia, 40, son of Golam Mustafa alias Suruj Driver of Mymensingh city's Char Kalibari area.

On information that drug peddlers were selling drugs in Char Puliamari area, a team of Detective Branch of police raided the area

around 12:45am, said Md Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of DB, Mymensingh.

Sensing the presence of police, the drug dealers opened fire on them, forcing the detectives to retaliate. During the "gunfight" Sumon sustained bullet wounds, said the OC, adding, he was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION