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2018

BUILDING RULES

# 95pc structures in Rajuk area non-compliant

TAWFIQUE ALI

Over 95 percent of the structures under Rajuk's jurisdiction were built without building approval, according to survey findings for the ongoing revision of the capital city's Detailed Area Plan (DAP).

The incapability of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) in enforcing the building construction law and development plan over its vast 1,528-square kilometre jurisdiction has led to the capital growing in an unplanned fashion, said leading urban planners.

Owners of the huge number of one or two-storied structures do not come to Rajuk to obtain building approval, as they cannot comply with the preconditions provided in the building law, said Khondker Neaz Rahman, a deputy team leader of the consultant for DAP revision.

"The building law has been made applicable so arbitrarily to small structures that majority of the population cannot comply with it nor Rajuk can enforce it either," he said.

The building construction rules require that any structure, including tin-roofed or semi-concrete one-storey, measuring 200 square metres or less has to have a car parking space if the owner wants to obtain a building construction permit.

Neaz said that a pre-condition like this was just absurd. The DAP interim report cites that of the 18 million population in the master plan area of Dhaka city, only about 4 percent own private cars. But this tiny fraction of car-owning population occupies 88 percent of the city's

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Worshippers at Kalabagan Math mandap in the capital as Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community, began yesterday with Maha Shashthi puja.

PHOTO: STAR



## UK PM may seek Brexit delay

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has told a court he will request a Brexit delay if he fails to strike a deal with the EU by October 19, according to documents published online yesterday.

Parliament has passed legislation requiring the premier to ask the other 27 EU leaders for an extension if no deal emerges from a Brussels summit on October 17-18.

But he is now facing a legal challenge to ensure he does not follow through on his threat to take Britain out of the bloc on October 31, come what may.

Johnson has repeatedly promised to both follow the law and take Britain out by the deadline -- a contradictory position prompting speculation the government may have identified a loophole to end its EU membership.

Lawyer Jo Maugham, a key opponent to Brexit and claimant in the case, posted the documents on Twitter yesterday.

He said the government had submitted documents to Scotland's highest civil court stating that Johnson "accepts that... he will send a letter (asking for an extension) by no later than 19 October 2019" if there is still no new deal.

UK media have speculated Johnson could still try to get Brexit done on time by sending a second letter alongside the request, stating he did not want the extension and was only following the law.

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WILDLIFE TRADE

## One in every five species affected: report

AFP, Washington

More than 5,500 species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles are bought and sold on the worldwide animal market, a volume that is around 50 percent higher than earlier estimates, a study published in Science said Thursday.

The legal and illegal trade of wildlife as pets or for animal products is a multi-billion-dollar industry, and recognised as one of the most severe threats to biodiversity.

But the extent of the trade has remained poorly understood.

The research by scientists at the University of Florida and University of Sheffield found that threatened and endangered species were disproportionately represented.

Overall, 5,579 of the 31,745 vertebrate species are traded, or 18 percent.

Among mammals, the figure rises to 27 percent, with the animals mainly used to produce products -- for example pangolins, which are killed for their scales and for their meat.

Amphibians and reptiles are more often sold as exotic pets or to zoos, while 23

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CITY BUS SERVICES

## Bring them under franchise system

HC asks authorities as dangerous competition among drivers causing accidents

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has directed the authorities concerned to bring bus services in all metropolitan cities under the franchising system, which would allow one company to operate all buses on each route and end unhealthy competition among drivers.

"The respondents shall arrange bus routes under franchise system among all the existing bus companies under one company with regard to zone or line in all the metropolitan cities to be run by separate unique color code," the court said in a full judgement.

Under this system, buses of all companies will run under one company in each zone, and the revenue will be shared by the all companies, said Barrister Muniruzzaman, a lawyer for Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

As a result, the bus drivers will not engage in ill competition and the number of road accidents will reduce, he told The Daily Star on September 29.

The respondents (authorities concerned of the government and bus companies) have been asked to implement the directive in six months after receiving the copy of the verdict. The full text of the HC verdict was released on September 9.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam gave the verdict on June 20, declaring absolute the suomoto (voluntary) rule issued by it over compensation for the family of road accident victim Rajib Hossain.

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## CRACKDOWN IN KSA 130 more back home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 130 more Bangladeshi migrant workers returned home from Saudi Arabia on Thursday night in the face of a crackdown on undocumented workers there.

A flight of Saudi Airlines carrying the workers landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:20pm, said Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme.

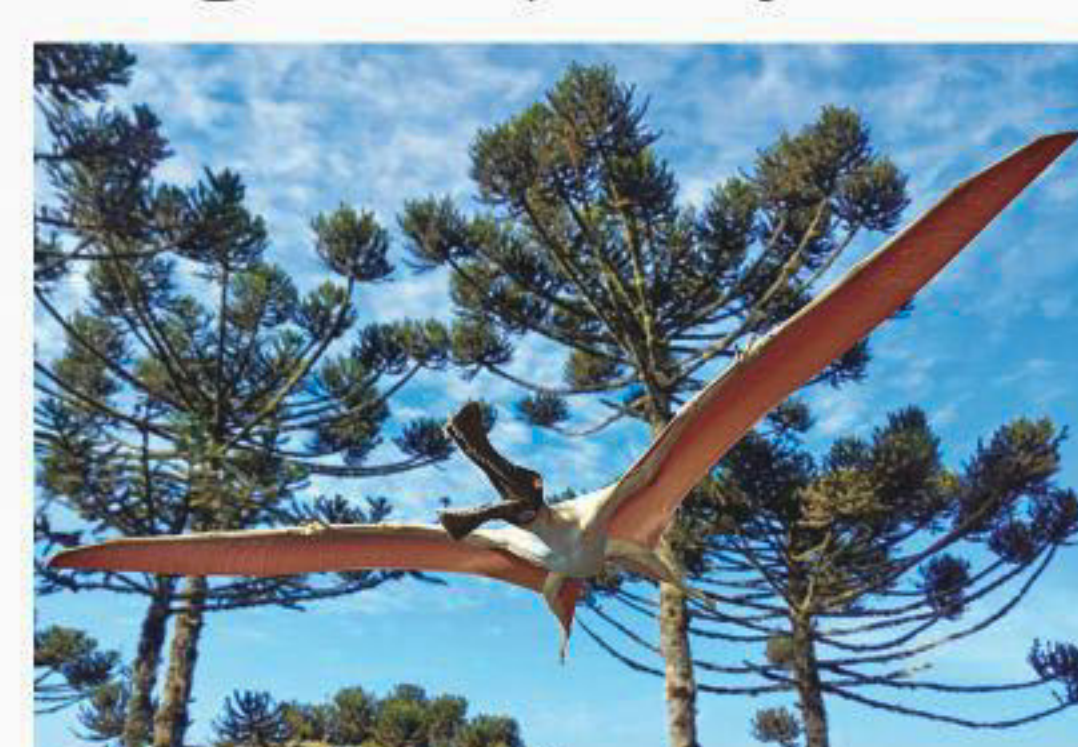
With them, around 11,000 to 12,000 Bangladeshi workers have so far been sent back home by the Saudi authorities this year alone, the Brac official said.

Tanvir Hossain, assistant director at the Bureau of Manpower, Training and Employment (BMET), also confirmed the return.

Following their arrival, a support team combined of government officials at the Prabashi Kalyan Desk and

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## Fossil of giant 'iron dragon' reptile found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The 96-million-year-old skeleton of a giant flying reptile has been discovered under a sheep farm in Australia.

Palaeontologists believe the remains belong to a pterosaur, the earliest vertebrates known to have evolved powered flight. Pterosaur means "winged lizard" in Greek.

The creature had a 4-metre wingspan, a 60cm long crested head and elongated jaws with spiked teeth.

"This is based on comparisons with similar pterosaurs. It would have been an apex aerial predator," said Adele Pentland, a PHD student and palaeontologist at Swinburne University of Technology.

"This pterosaur has a large crest at the front of its upper jaws and also had a crest on its lower

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30  
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



## Satyapriya Mahathero passes away

STAR REPORT

Satyapriya Mahathero, one of the top religious leaders among the country's Buddhist community, passed away early yesterday. He was 91.

The venerable Buddhist monk, who was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2015, breathed his last at 12:55am at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital.

He had been suffering from various health complications for the last two weeks, according to his followers.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep sorrow over his death and prayed eternal peace for the

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An anti-government protester wearing mask smashes a bureau of Bank of China during a demonstration after a government's ban on face masks under emergency law, at Mong Kok, in Hong Kong, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Hong Kong bans face masks

Protest, clashes flare after Carrie Lam invokes colonial-era powers to quell unrest; China backs move

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's leader invoked colonial-era emergency powers yesterday to ban protesters wearing face masks, but the move aimed at quelling months of unrest sparked immediate rallies, widespread clashes and vows to defy the new law.

Chief executive Carrie Lam said she made the order under the Emergency Regulations Ordinances, a sweeping provision that grants her the ability to bypass the legislature and make any law during a time of emergency or public danger.

It is the first time the law has been used in 52 years. "We believe that the new law will create a deterrent effect against masked violent protesters and rioters, and will assist the police" in law enforcement, Lam said.

As soon as the ban was announced, widespread protests broke out across Hong Kong. Large crowds of mostly office workers blocked roads in the heart of the commercial district.

Some protesters tore down pro-China banners, before clashes erupted throughout the evening. Police used tear gas in multiple locations to disperse protesters who had taken over roads, vandalised subway stations, set street fires and trashed pro-China businesses.

In the northern district of Yuen Long, a police officer

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