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"We see that Phensidyl traders are getting killed in shootouts. It will be an example if onion traders responsible for the price hike die in shootouts."
JP LAWMAKER MUJIBUL HAQUE



"After its departure, the UK will become an outsider, a second-rate player, while the main battlefield will be occupied by China, the US and the EU."
EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT DONALD TUSK (PAGE 9)



"The wicket was in no way unplayable. They are the world number one side, so when we play against them, we have to be mentally strong enough."
BANGLADESH TEST CAPTAIN MOMINUL HAQUE (PAGE 18)

Onion heats up Sangsad

MPs slam govt for failure to check prices; PM assures that govt is on top of it; prices reach Tk 220 a kg in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the crisis artificial, senior treasury and opposition bench lawmakers yesterday came down heavily on the government in parliament for failing to check skyrocketing onion prices.

They said people were suffering and the government's failure to bring down the prices of the daily essential would trigger negative reaction from the people.

The MPs, taking the floor on points of order, said there was "no shortage" of onions in the market and the crisis was artificially created.

The prime minister was present when lawmakers vented their displeasure. Later, she too said that unscrupulous traders were hoarding onions.

Awami League senior parliamentarian Mohammad Nasim said, "Commerce minister [Tipu Munshi] and finance minister [AHM Mustafa Kamal] are saying that onions are being imported, then why prices are shooting up every day?"

"It is not understandable. It is tarnishing our image. It will be bad for us if people start to react," said Nasim, who launched the criticism.

"When the commerce minister makes statement that price of a kg of onions will not come down to Tk 100, then

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People jostling to buy onions at Tk 60 a kg from a truck of the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) in the capital's Press Club area yesterday. Onion prices at kitchen markets have hit a record high, with each kg selling for Tk 220.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



TRAIN ACCIDENTS Govt to see if any plots involved

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would probe if there was any ill motive and conspiracy behind the recent train accidents and take necessary action after completion of the investigation.

Delivering her winding-up speech at the fifth session of the 11th parliament, she expressed deep sorrow at the deaths of passengers in Tuesday's train accident in Brahmanbaria.

"An accident is an accident. The train accident took place in Kasba due

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Verify facts properly

Govt asks media about news on sensitive issues

The government yesterday urged the media to properly verify facts before publishing news on sensitive issues.

A public notice issued by the home ministry said, "The publication of misleading news on important personalities, politicians, businessmen, government officials and institutions are being noticed occasionally in print, electronic, online, and social media."

This is deteriorating public discipline, tarnishing personal reputation, creating social unrest and confusions in people's mind, the notice read.

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ROAD TRANSPORT ACT EXECUTION

Mobile court not fully equipped

Overloading, vehicle modification excluded from mobile court jobs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Mobile courts run by the BRTA and district administrations are getting the power to enforce the much-anticipated Road Transport Act 2018 next week. But the courts will not have the full force of the law behind them.

The act's two key sections that deal with checking unauthorised modifications made to vehicles and overloading are not incorporated in the schedule of Mobile Court Act, 2009, said ministry and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority officials.

As a result, the mobile courts will not check modification and overloading, let alone file cases accusing the violators. This will make the courts less effective.

Unauthorised modification and overloading have been identified by experts as the main causes of frequent crashes and damages to roads and bridges.

Although the act was supposed to come into effect on November 1, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader halted its full execution, saying that people lacked awareness about the tough law.

But experts pointed out that the BRTA and police had little preparation to enforce the law. The government didn't even finish framing the rules for the act.

There are also allegations that transport associations had been lobbying against enforcement of the act, which replaced the

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BRIBERY RISK INDEX

Bangladesh has highest risk in South Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been identified as the "country with the highest risk" in terms of bribery threats in South Asia, according to the latest Global Bribery Risk Index.

In the updated index report titled Trace Bribery Risk Matrix, Bangladesh scored 72 out of 100 this year, which is two points higher than last year. The global average score is 51.

This means that the threat of business bribery has grown stronger as the country was ranked in the 178th position.

Bangladesh has also fared poorly in measures taken to discourage bribery and anti-bribery enforcement, the 2019 Trace Bribery Risk Matrix said.

Trace, headquartered in the United States and registered in Canada, is a globally recognised anti-bribery business

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CRIMES AGAINST ROHINGYA

Suu Kyi named in Argentine lawsuit

ICC authorises probe into alleged Rohingya abuse

AFP, Buenos Aires

Former democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi is among several top Myanmar officials named Wednesday in a case filed in Argentina for crimes against Rohingya Muslims, the first time the Nobel Laureate has been legally targeted over the crisis.

Rohingya and Latin American human rights groups submitted the lawsuit in Argentina under the principle of "universal jurisdiction," a legal concept enshrined in many countries' laws.

The premise is that some acts -- including war crimes and crimes against humanity -- are so horrific they are not specific to one nation and can be tried anywhere.

"This complaint seeks the criminal sanction of the perpetrators, accomplices and cover-ups of the genocide. We are doing it through Argentina because they have no other possibility of filing the criminal complaint anywhere else," lawyer Tomas Ojea told AFP.



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Even Bangladesh's most experienced batsman, Mushfiqur Rahim, could not withstand the sustained onslaught of India's pacers on the first day of the first Test at the Holkar Stadium in Indore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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Tigers staring down the barrel

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

Before the series began there were assertions about how difficult a challenge the Test series against India would be, compared to the recently-concluded T20I series against the same opposition. The Tigers put up a fight in the T20I series but lost 2-1, but the Test series was a different proposition altogether and India's bowling attack took no time to showcase just how difficult Bangladesh's task was on Day one of the first Test in Indore yesterday.

Bangladesh are already well behind in the match as India were 86 for one at the end of the day, needing just 64 more to start building a huge first-innings lead.

The pitch had some grass left on it and the hard surface was presumably going to favour pacers early on. Despite that, it was a

Tk 12,580CR CLAIMED BY TELECOM REGULATOR GP agrees to deposit Tk 200cr with BTRC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone has agreed to deposit Tk 200 crore with Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission against the telecom regulator's claim of Tk 12,580 crore.

The amount would be adjusted after the settlement of the regulator's audit claim, a GP lawyer told the Supreme Court yesterday.

The lawyer told the court that the mobile operator moved for a settlement with the

BTRC after Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal stepped in as a mediator.

The SC was also told that the regulator's audit report was "disputed" and so it needed a revision with help from an expert body.

On the other hand, a lawyer for the BTRC told the SC that Grameenphone should clear 50 percent of the Tk 12,580 crore due now.

The court said any amount could be adjusted later as the case was possibly

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SINGER SCORECARD

INDIA VS BANGLADESH
FIRST TEST BRIEF SCORE

Bangladesh: First innings 150 all out in 58.3 overs (Mominul 37, Mushfiqur 43, Liton 21; Ishant 2-20, Yadav 2-47, Shami 3-27, Ashwin 2-43)
India: First innings 86 for 1 in 26 overs (Agarwal not out 37, Pujara not out 43; Jayed 1-21)