



LIKE DUBAI, BANGLADESH CAN BE
BUILT ON GRADE 500 STEEL

BSRM
Xtreme
the next generation steel

"Offers You Can't Resist".
PHILIPS NOW 47" LCD BDT. 179,500
Installation + Home Theater System + UPS FREE
Drop into your nearest Transcom Digital Showroom and get your LCD TV Now!
Exclusively Available at
TRANSCOM
Your Trusted Electronics Retailer
For more information 88538645, 01712885493

ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK

Alternative route bid abandoned

Govt decides for links as per original UN-Escap plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abandoning the country's previously proposed routes, the government decided to connect Bangladesh to the Asian Highway Network (AHN) accepting routes proposed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-Escap).

"We decided to connect Bangladesh to the Asian Highway Network for the welfare of the country," Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain told reporters after a meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Officials of the communications, foreign, home, defence, and finance ministries attended the meeting.

"If we could be connected to the Asian Highway Network, our communication and trade with Asian countries will improve," said the minister, adding, "It would also boost our tourism industry."

He said the previous governments did not look at the best interest of the country and did not link the country with the communication network. In the meantime the country faced losses, he added.

He said a summary regarding the

Asian Highway would be placed before the next cabinet meeting for the government's approval. "Our government's decision will be conveyed to the UN-Escap so that Bangladesh can be connected by signing the agreement as per the routes proposed by the UN-Escap."

The UN-Escap drafted an Intergovernmental Agreement on the AHN for the development of Asian Highways, which include three routes in Bangladesh.

The proposed routes are Benapole-Jessore-Kanchpur-Dhaka-Sylhet-Tamabil (AH1), Bangabandha-Hatikamrul-Dhaka-Kanchpur-Sylhet-Tamabil (AH2) and Dhaka-Kanchpur-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf-Myanmar border (AH-41). The third route is a sub-regional one.

AHN, a proposed network of 1,41,000km of standard roadways crisscrossing Asian countries and linking them with Europe, was conceived in 1959 with an aim to promote development of the highway systems in Asia.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

member of the network as its successive governments failed to understand the highway's immense potential and importance. The main reason behind Dhaka's reluctance to join the Asian Highway club is its reservations about giving transit to India.

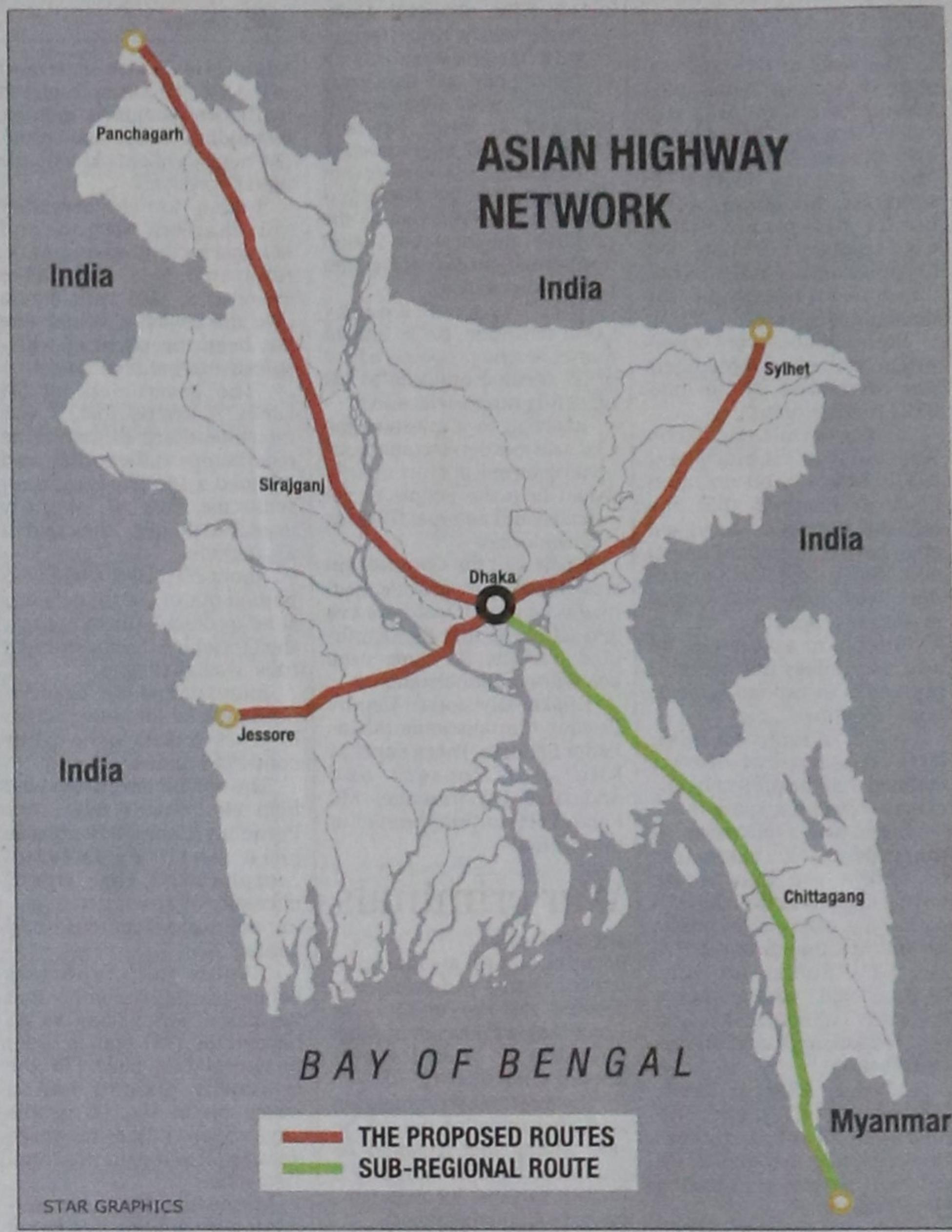
Bangladesh had said the first two routes proposed by the UN-Escap enter Bangladesh from India and exits to India.

Bangladesh has been pressing for Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf route. A number of moves in this regard proved futile as Dhaka failed to convince UN-Escap.

Asked whether the country would have to face any security threats from neighbouring countries, the communications minister ruled out the possibility.

The Asian Highway, also known as the Great Asian Highway, is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and Europe and the UN-Escap for improving the highway systems in Asia.

It is one of the three pillars of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project endorsed



WAR CRIMINALS
Law to be updated for fair trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government has taken initiatives to update the existing International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 for holding trial of war criminals on charge of committing offences against humanity during the liberation war in 1971.

"The International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 under which the war criminals to be tried should be updated for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

HC asks govt to produce personal file on Zia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to produce before it on May 27 the personal file on late president Ziaur Rahman to examine whether he had any involvement in the proclamation of independence of the country.

An HC bench gave the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

SSC results on May 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) SSC (vocational) and Dakhil examinations under eight education boards, Technical education board and Madrasa board will be simultaneously published on May 26.

The heads of the educational institutions have been asked to collect the result sheets from the secretaries of respective examination

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Congress, allies yet to agree on cabinet berth

Manmohan takes oath today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Efforts by India's ruling Congress to form a coalition ran into trouble last night with key ally DMK refusing to join the government as talks on allocation of ministerial berths and portfolios were deadlocked.

This happened on the eve of swearing-in of Manmohan Singh as prime minister for a second consecutive term.

DMK announced Congress' "formula" on ministerial allocation was not acceptable, but it would extend support to the new government.

"My leader Karunanidhi has advised me to inform that DMK

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Govt targets Tk 80,000cr revenue in next budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The revenue-earning target has been fixed at Tk 80,000 crore in the next fiscal year without imposing new tax burden on the people, said Finance Minister AMA Muhib

yesterday.

He told this to journalists after a meeting with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on revenue-earning

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Continue zero duty on import of newsprint

Noab urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday urged the government to continue zero tariff on import of newsprint for the sake of newspaper industry.

"We have urged the finance minister to continue zero tariff facility for import of newsprint in the next budget," Noab President Mahbubul Alam told reporters after a delegation led by him met the minister at his office.

On the Noab proposal, Finance Minister AMA Muhib told journalists, "I have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Online Poll ✓
Do you think an international assessment on the impact of the Tipaimukh dam on Bangladesh should be conducted?

Yes (87.94%)

No (8.75%)