



UNLOCKING POTENTIALS

Top bureaucrat writes on Bangladesh's role in advancing South-South cooperation

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JAYA'S NEWEST FLICK

"Ekta Bangalee Bhooter Golpo" set for World TV premier in Kolkata today

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"UNSHAKEABLE"

China tells US of its determination to continue with island-building in South China Sea

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Nuke power plant cost up three times

Russian developer hints it would be \$10b; despite high cost Rooppur power to be cheaper than coal-fired electricity

SHARIER KHAN

The 2400-megawatt Rooppur nuclear power project is likely to cost around \$10 billion, more than three times the initial estimate of the government.

The project's Russian developer Rosatom has been dropping hints since last year that the cost may go up to \$10 billion. A couple of years ago the government had estimated that the plant would cost between \$2 billion and \$3 billion.

The government and Rosatom have been saying that the cost of a power project like this cannot be specified before the entire project design is complete, which is scheduled to be done by the end of the year.

The government is in talks with Russia on financing the project, and its terms and conditions with a target to conclude the negotiation by November. Bangladesh is seeking 90 percent of the project financing from Russia. The loan will be repaid in 28 years with a 10-year grace period.

"We have not gone to the level of discussing exactly how much money would

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ROOPPUR LAND GRABBED Govt to reclaim 800 acres

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The upazila administration of Ishwardi will soon move to free 800 acres from land-grabbers and hand it over to Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) for building the nuclear power plant in Rooppur.

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO ON ROOPPUR LAND GRABBING



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "I-NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



Clockwise from bottom left, a Rohingya woman from Myanmar breaks down in tears holding her son, while Bangladeshis get medical attention for dehydration and injuries at a shelter in Indonesia's Aceh province yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Morsi gets death penalty

3 judges 'shot dead in Sinai'

AFP, Cairo

An Egyptian court yesterday sentenced deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi and more than 100 others to death for their role in a mass jailbreak during the 2011 uprising.

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DHAKA-GUWAHATI ROUTE All set for deal on bus service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Bangladesh next month, the transport ministers of the two countries are expected to finalise tomorrow the modalities of bus service between Dhaka and Guwahati via Shillong.

Modi is likely to flag off the bus service. Bangladesh's Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with his Indian counterpart Nitin Gadkari at the Parivahan Bhavan tomorrow, diplomatic sources said.

The trial run of the bus service on the 496-km route between Dhaka and Guwahati was completed in December last year.

Sources said the bus service would initially run twice a

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'I want to go back to my mother'

Bangladeshi boy tells tale of horror

AFP, Langsa

Snatched by people traffickers in his native Bangladesh and forced onto a migrant boat, 14-year-old Absaruddin endured a weeks-long nightmare in which he almost starved to death, saw his relatives killed and was forced to jump overboard after being attacked.

He lived to tell the tale after he and several hundred other Bangladeshis

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Bring them back immediately

Govt urged to take steps for repatriation of rescued Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should immediately engage with the countries concerned to ensure safe and quick return of the Bangladeshi trafficking victims perilously drifting at sea, said speakers at a workshop on human trafficking in the capital yesterday.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Bangladesh organised the workshop titled "Combating Human Trafficking and Repatriation of Victims: Role of Key Actors" at a Gulshan hotel.

Colonel Touhid, operations director at Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters, said it is urgently needed that the government engage with Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia to tackle the issue of human trafficking and the subsequent humanitarian crises.

"The crisis is complex due to the locally influential quarters. Furthermore, members of Counter Trafficking Committee are in some cases

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NEWS ANALYSIS How long will they suffer?

PORIMOL PALMA

It's shocking to learn that an estimated 6,000 people from Bangladesh and Myanmar are fighting for survival in the Andaman Sea and the Straits of Malacca as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are refusing to accept them to their respective shores.

While Myanmar disowns the Rohingya people drifting in the sea amid total uncertainty, Bangladesh seems not that much worried about its own people.

Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Shahidul Haque said they had no specific information.

"Different organisations are saying different things ... but nothing specific.

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A Bengal tiger tries to cool off in a pool at Dhaka Zoo in the sweltering heat on Friday morning. Above, visitors also fan themselves. However, rains brought relief to the city in later part of the day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The Daily Star

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