Rajab 27, 1436 Hijri



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UNLOCKING POTENTIALS

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

PAGE 6

JAYA'S NEWEST FLICK

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

"UNSHAKEABLE"

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

PAGE 8

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

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 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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 landgrabbers and hand it over to Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) for building the nuclear power plant in Rooppur. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO ON ROOPPUR LAND GRABBING



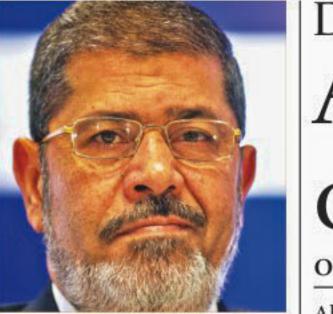








Clockwise from bottom left, a Rohingya woman from Myanmar breaks down in tears holding her son, while Bangladeshis get medical attention for dehydration and injuries at a shelter in Indonesia's Aceh province yesterday.



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. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DHAKA-GUWAHATI ROUTE

All set for deal on bus service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delh

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

mother'

Bangladeshi boy tells tale of horror

AFP, Langsa

Snatched by people traffickers in his native Bangladesh and forced onto a migrant boat, 14year-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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

back to my Bring them back NEWS ANALYSIS Hour long II immediately

Govt urged to take steps for repatriation of rescued Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

. The government should immediately engage with the countries concerned . Myanmar are fighting for survival in the to ensure safe and quick return of the Bangladeshi trafficking victims peril- : Andaman Sea and the Straits of Malacca as ously drifting at sea, said speakers at a workshop on human trafficking in · Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are refus-· the capital yesterday.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Bangladesh organised : the workshop titled "Combating Human Trafficking and Repatriation of : people drifting in the sea amid total uncer-· Victims: Role of Key Actors" at a Gulshan hotel.

Colonel Touhid, operations director at Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) · worried about its own people. headquarters, said it is urgently needed that the government engage with : Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia to tackle the issue of human . Shahidul Haque said they had no specific 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: ferent things ... but nothing specific. We SEE PAGE 11 COL 2 '

How long will they suffer?

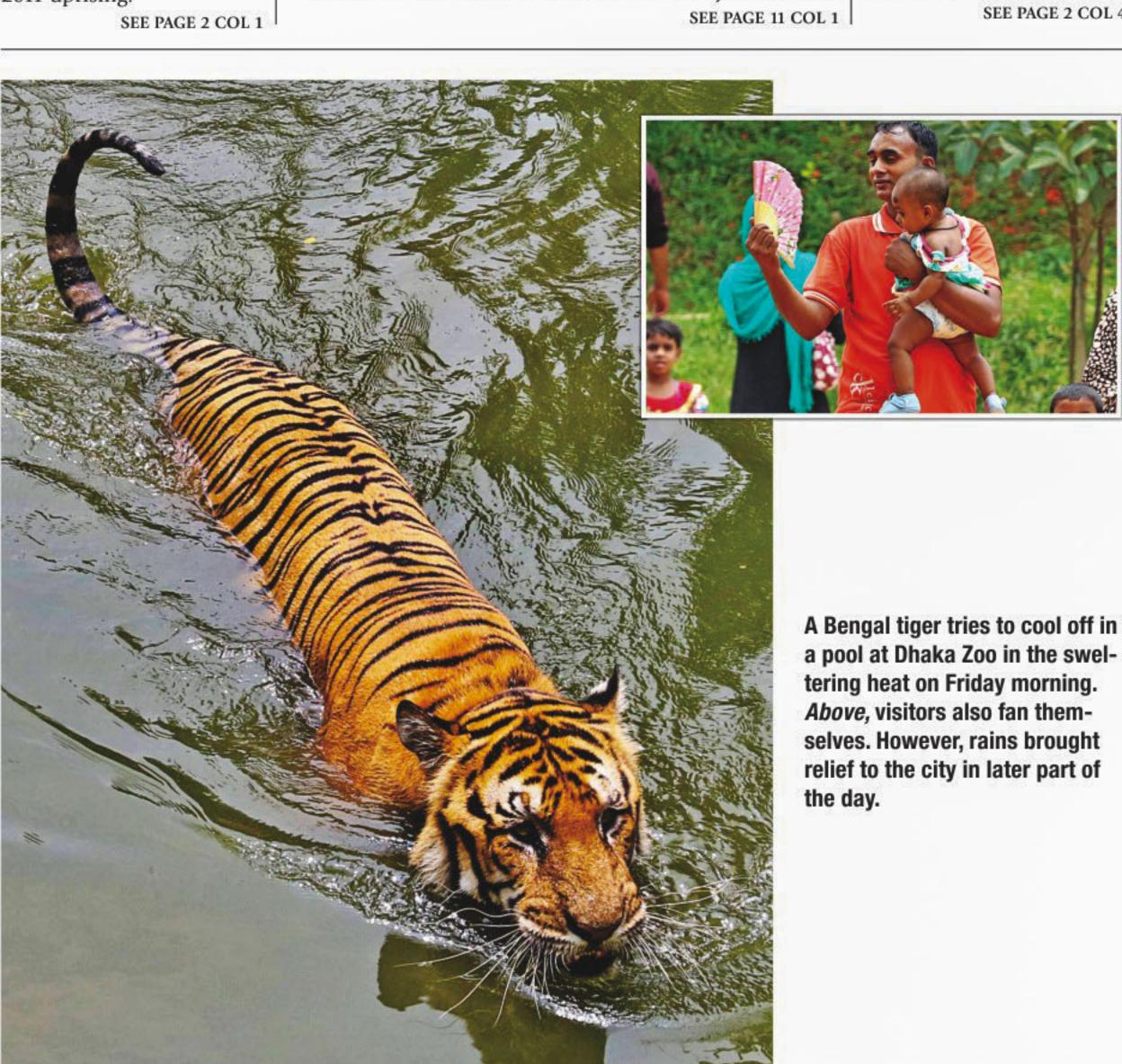
PORIMOL PALMA

· It's shocking to learn that an estimated 6,000 people from Bangladesh and : ing to accept them to their respective shores.

While Myanmar disowns the Rohingya · tainty, Bangladesh seems not that much

 information. "Different organisations are saying dif-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2





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PHOTO:

ANISUR RAHMAN



