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BBIN ROAD CONNECTIVITY

Motor vehicle pact stumbles in Bhutan

HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi

An ambitious road connectivity plan involving Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) --- an initiative pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to boost trade --- has hit a roadblock with the upper house of Bhutan parliament deciding against ratifying the motor vehicle pact on Wednesday.

The BBIN agreement -- signed in Bhutan's capital Thimpu in July -- will become operational only when all the four countries ratify it. India, Bangladesh and Nepal have already ratified the pact.

The pact will allow seamless movement of passenger and cargo vehicles among the four countries. Under the agreement, the "contracting parties" will allow cargo vehicles for inter-country cargo, including third country cargo and passenger vehicles or personal vehicles, to ply in the territory of another country "subject to the terms of the agreement".

All vehicles, however, will require a permit for plying through the other country.

This is the second time that the Indian government's sub-regional road connectivity plan has hit a hurdle. Earlier, Pakistan scuppered the Saarc motor vehicle agreement by refusing to come on board.

India then decided to tap its eastern neighbours to boost regional connectivity. Bypassing Pakistan, India moved to have an agreement with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan to remove restrictions on vehicular movement in the subcontinent.

Senior government officials in the Union road transport and highways ministry said a large cross-section of people in Bhutan, including lawmakers, had expressed concerns over the environmental impact of allowing large number of vehicles enter the country after it ratifies the pact.

"The lower house of Bhutan parliament had approved the pact earlier this year. But

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Khulna Titans skipper Mahmudullah Riyad plays an exquisite drive during his 44-ball 62, which helped his side to a nine-run win against Dhaka Dynamites in their Bangladesh Premier League fixture at the Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Bangladeshi arrested in Libya over trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Libyan police on Thursday arrested a Bangladeshi national for his alleged involvement in trafficking 37 fellow countrymen promising them lucrative jobs in the North African country.

The trafficker has been identified as Sujon, 28, a resident of Noakhali, confirmed the Bangladesh Embassy in Tripoli.

The Libyan police arrested at least 10 Bangladeshi human traffickers, including Sujon, in the last three weeks.

On November 8, the 37 Bangladeshi fortune seekers, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ATTACK ON SANTALS

Local MP, UP representatives had direct role Says a civil body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local lawmaker, union parishad chairman and members and the local administration were "directly involved" in the November 6 attack on Santals in Gaibandha, said

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The bird that looks like Trump

CNN ONLINE

A curious creature with audacious golden plumage has fascinated the world. We all watch intently as he struts about, soaking in the attention he knows he commands. An enigma, is he. What secret intent lies

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Trump settles fraud lawsuits for \$25m

AFP, New York

US President-elect Donald Trump on Friday agreed to pay \$25 million to settle lawsuits accusing his now-defunct Trump University of fraud, sparing him the embarrassment of further legal wrangling as he prepares to enter the White House.

A trio of suits brought by former students alleged that the training program -- which was not an accredited college or university, but was in operation from 2005 to 2011 -- fleeced students by tricking them with aggressive marketing.

Students paid as much as \$35,000 to enroll, wrongly believing they would make it big in real estate after being taught by the Manhattan mogul's

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 20

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

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