

10,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh in recent weeks: UN

Suu Kyi vows to initiate national reconciliation move amid criticism

STAR REPORT

At least 10,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh recently to flee violence in Myanmar, the United Nations said yesterday.

"Based on reports by various humanitarian agencies, we estimate that there could be 10,000 new arrivals in recent weeks," Vivian Tan, a spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency in Bangkok, told AFP.

"The situation is fast changing and the actual number could be much higher."

The UN estimates that at least 30,000 Rohingyas have been forced to leave their homes in the western state of Rakhine since the Myanmar army started crackdown there in October.

Scores of Rohingya people are sneaking into Bangladesh every day -- many of them crossing the Naf river and others walking across the land border.

Bangladesh has stepped up patrol on the border to try to stop the Rohingyas from entering, but last week it said thousands had streamed into the country.

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These Rohingyas have crossed into Bangladesh recently and started building makeshift houses at Kutupalang Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar. Despite heightened vigilance by BGB personnel, Rohingyas continue to pour into Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

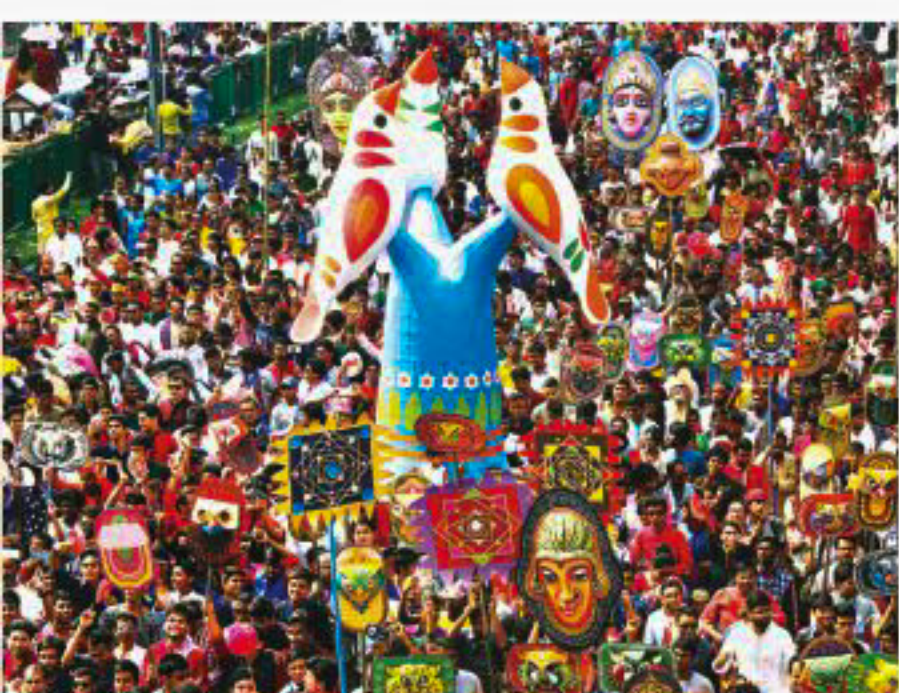
Miladunnabi on Dec 13

UNB, Dhaka

Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the day of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), will be observed on December 13 as the moon of Rabiul Awal of Hijri 1438 was not sighted in Bangladesh sky yesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office, said an Islamic Foundation release.

Chief Information Officer AKM Shamim Chowdhury, Joint Secretary to the Information Ministry Mohammad Nurul Islam and Bangladesh Television Director (administration) M Shakhawat Hossain, among others, attended the meeting with Joint Secretary to the Religious Affairs Ministry Zakir Ahmed in the chair.



Unesco lists Mangal Shobhajatra as cultural heritage

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mangal Shobhajatra on Pahela Baishakh, a festival close to the hearts of Bangalis, has been inscribed on Unesco's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The decision was made at the 11th session of the Inter-governmental Committee on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia yesterday.

The committee in its decision noted

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9 get life for killing journo Manik Saha

Family disappointed with verdict in the 12-year-old case

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twelve years after the killing of journalist Manik Chandra Saha, a speedy tribunal in Khulna yesterday sentenced nine people to life in prison in the murder case.

The court also fined each of the convicts Tk 10,000 and if they failed to pay, they would have to serve an additional year.

Family members of the Ekushey Padak winner, however, expressed frustration over the verdict yesterday.

In his immediate reaction, Manik Saha's younger brother Pradip Kumar Saha said the verdict was unacceptable.

"We had hoped that the court would deliver the highest punishment," he said.

The convicts are: Akram Hosain Hawladar, Ali Akbar Shikdar alias Shaon, Nuruzzaman, Mithun, Suman, Sattar alias Disco Sattar, Bellal alias Bulbul, Saka alias Sakawat Hossain, and Sarwar Hossain alias Saro.

Of them, Mithun, Suman, Sattar, Sakawat, and Sarwar are on the run.

Accused Hai Islam and Omar Faruk were acquitted.

A total of 14 people were accused in the case. Of them, Abur Rashid, Altaf and Mahfuz were killed in "crossfire" incidents.

The case had been reinvestigated and had remained dormant for a long time due to lack of witnesses.



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Seven-murder case verdict on Jan 16

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday fixed January 16 next year for delivering its verdict on the 2014 sensational seven murders.

The date was set after the completion of the defence arguments in favour of 23 arrested accused and 12 fugitives at the court of District and Session Judge Syed Enayet Hossain.

The victims' families and the state counsels expressed the hope for the highest punishment of all 35 including the main accused Nur Hossain in the two cases filed over the incident.

Public Prosecutor Wajed Ali Khokon said the prosecution had submitted proofs of the planning, abduction and killing of the victims and dumping their bodies in the Shitalakkhya river.

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GLITCH IN PM'S PLANE

Biman suspends six employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman yesterday suspended six officials of its engineering section after a probe discovered that their negligence in duty caused a Biman flight carrying the prime minister to make an emergency landing in Turkmenistan on Sunday.

The VVIP flight to Budapest with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the emergency landing at Ashgabat International Airport in Turkmenistan after a loose nut caused an oil leak and subsequent oil pressure loss in engine-1 of the Boeing 777-300ER, the Biman probe found.

Following procedure, the plane was handed over to the security personnel 24 hours prior to its flight and those who were supposed to have inspected the plane have been identified, Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon said at a press briefing yesterday.

In the briefing, the minister said the probe body identified five to seven officials of engineering and technical directorates of Biman for the incident. He said stern action would be taken against those responsible after a thorough investigation.

The six were suspended around an hour after the minister's briefing.

They are: engineering officials SM Rokonzaman, Samiul Haque, Lutfor Rahman, Milon Chandra Biswas, and

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Comilla play spoilsport

SPORTS REPORTER

The reigning champions of the Bangladesh Premier League, the Comilla Victorians, may not have a chance to make it to the playoffs this time, but that does not mean they cannot create havoc for other teams.

That is exactly what they did yesterday at Mirpur when they thumped the Rajshahi Kings by eight wickets.

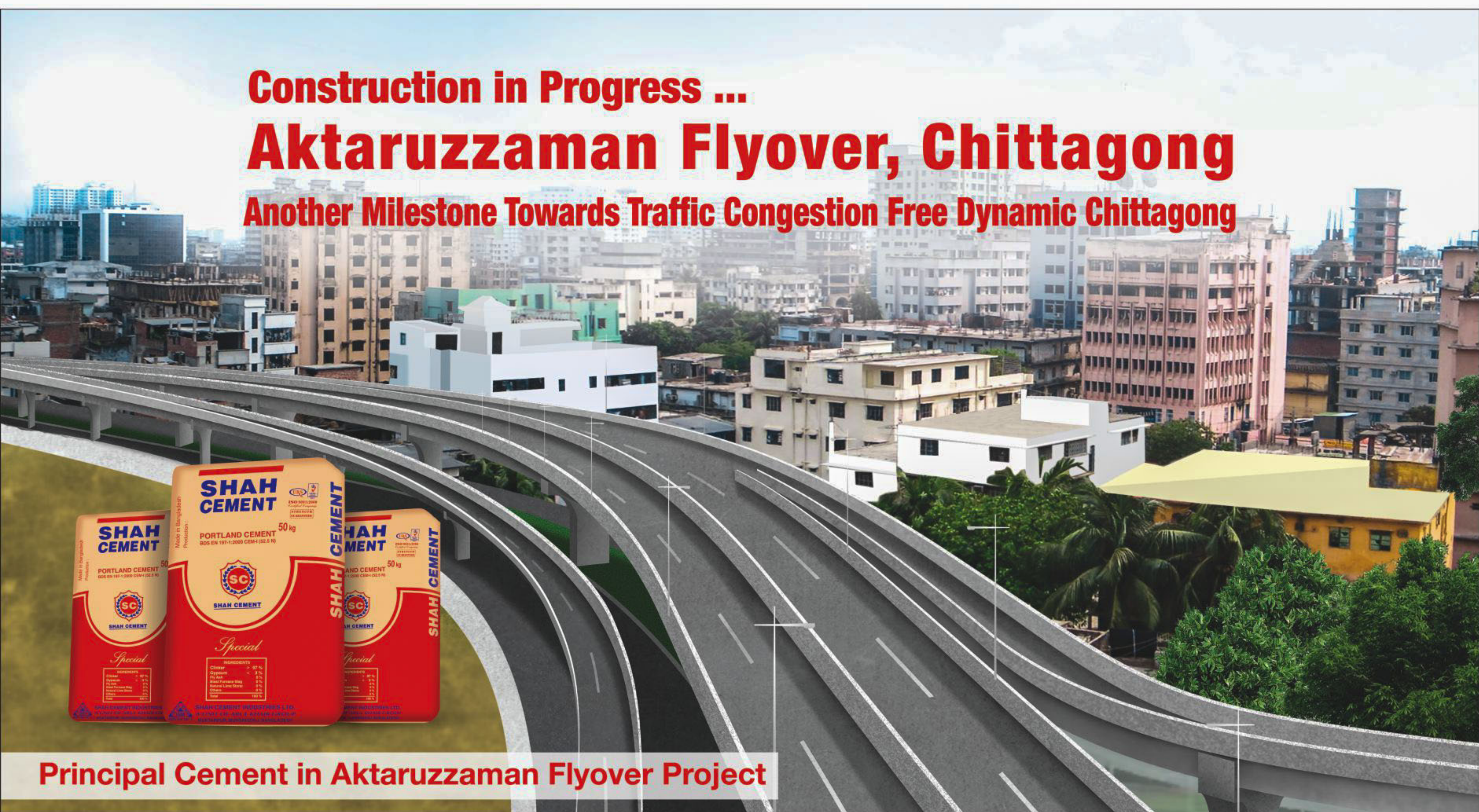
It was an important game for the Kings. They needed to win this game in order to assert their place in the top four. Currently in fourth position, had they won

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Construction in Progress ...

Aktaruzzaman Flyover, Chittagong

Another Milestone Towards Traffic Congestion Free Dynamic Chittagong



Principal Cement in Aktaruzzaman Flyover Project

Born to Build

SHAH CEMENT