87,000 Myanmar nationals entered country since last Oct 9: IOM

UNB, *Dhaka*

Some 87,000 undocumented Myanmar nationals (UMNs) have so far entered Bangladesh following an outbreak of violence on October 9 last year in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.

Though the influx slowed down in late February 2017, fresh arrivals from Myanmar were reported in July this year, according to an assessment made by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"Some 87,000 new arrivals since October 2016, with an increase in both makeshift settlements and host communities, due to newly arrived UMNs across the border from Myanmar in the month of July," according to the report.

The majority of UMNs are living in Ukhia and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, a district bordering Myanmar identified as the main entry point for border crossing.

Some 57 sites were assessed. Some 1,64,000 UMNs were identified in the two upazilas of Cox's Bazar.

According to Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) Round 2 (April 2017), assessment of an additional four sites with a population of 635 were not conducted due to limited access.

Among those assessed, 52 percent were women and girls, said the report.

The National Strategy on Myanmar Refugees and UMNs formulated by the government of Bangladesh highlighted that about 3,00,000 to 5,00,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border in the past and are living in Bangladesh.

Following an outbreak of violence on October 9, 2016 in Rakhine, an estimated 74,000 UMNs have fled to Bangladesh from Rakhine until the influx become stable around February 23, 2017.

ANOTHER DAY AMID GRIDLOCK... This time, the roads were not waterlogged, nor were they blocked to ensure smooth passage of any VIPs. Still, the Dhaka city commuters had to suffer a spell of traffic gridlocks yesterday. The ongoing "development works", last couple of days' incessant rain and pothole-riddled roads paved the way for the sufferings. The photo was taken on Airport Road near Banani around 7:00pm. PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka life stalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like the day before, horrendous traffic jams crippled the capital city yesterday -- except this time, the rain could not be blamed for it.

The gridlocks in Dhaka streets have already become an everyday affair. But yesterday's situation seemed quite extreme.

Students, office-goers or businesspeople -- anyone who boarded a vehicle -- remained stuck in the streets for hours in boiling heat.

The ones succeeded in travelling half a kilometre distance in a couple of hours considered themselves fortunate.

Traffic snarl-ups were seen in almost every part of the city including Paltan, Shahbagh, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Malibagh, Mirpur, Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Kakrail, Mouchak, Elephant Road, Uttara, Gulshan, Banani, Kakoli, Farmgate and Jatiya Press Club area.

Many city residents blamed the ongoing haphazard road work for their ever-increasing sufferings.

Photos and posts regarding their sufferings flooded the social media all throughout the day yesterday. Many were desperately seeking updates of traffic situation ahead.

Rawnak Ahmed in his Facebook post said he headed for attending a programme at Cirdap auditorium on Topkhana Road around 9:00am from his house at Dhanmondi. The event was scheduled for 10:00am, but when he reached the place after several hours, the programme was almost over.

Taking the blame on himself, Rawnak said, "I should've started at least two hours earlier."

Another Facebook user found respite in sarcasm, saying, "Started at 10:08am and reached at 1:07pm. Not in Bangkok -- just from Uttara to Dhanmondi."

This monsoon the traffic situation for the Dhaka residents has turned for the worse as most of the streets are becoming impassable due to accumulated rainwater.

Key thoroughfares of the city including Rokeya Sarani,

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Dhaka transport no friend of challenged people: Seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday demanded that the government incorporate a provision in the proposed road transport act, ensuring easy access of the people with disabilities to public transport.

In the existing public transport system, there is no scope for persons with disabilities -- for instance, wheelchair users -- to board the public buses, they said.

At the same time, people having other disabilities also find it difficult to get in and off the buses as the system is not favourable to them, they added.

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) organised the seminar titled "Analysis of women with disabilities situations in different law and policies" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Sanjida Akter, a representative from Work for Better Bangladesh, said although a few seats are reserved for the persons with disabilities in all public buses in the city as per the government order, most of these seats remain occupied by other passengers, depriving the former of the rights they are entitled to.

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Car control is the key

Seminar on study on air pollution in Dhaka urges govt; says increasing motorisation puts quality of life, health of city dwellers at stake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the rise of motorised vehicles and its impacts, experts yesterday called upon the government to give Dhaka city dwellers more facilities for travel via non-motorised means including walking and cycling.

They demanded restrictions on motor vehicles, especially private cars, saying those vehicles were responsible for creating health hazards through air and sound pollutions and causing financial damage through traffic jams.

If the city dwellers walk for short distances and adopt non-motorised vehicles, both pollution and traffic jams will be reduced, and at the same time they will be able to keep themselves healthy and fit, the experts told a seminar.

The Work for a Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust in association with Stamford University and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) organised the seminar at WBB Trust office in the capital on occasion of disclosing findings of a recent study.

The organisers conducted the study in July on air pollution, dividing Dhaka city into three zones -- motorised, non-motorised, and mixed (both motorised and non-motorised).

Titled "Increasing Motorisation in Dhaka: Cost and Consequence", the study found that air pollution in the motorised and mixed areas is 188-230 percent higher than in non-motorised areas. Moreover, vehicles move faster in non-motorised areas than in the two other areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Steven Robert Jones, a toxicologist of Canada and one of the researchers, said non-motorised forms of transit were cost effective, environmentally viable, and accessible to all. On the other hand, impacts of increasing motorisation in Dhaka are severe, which

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Stop use of pneumatic horns in 48 hrs: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government to take necessary steps in 48 hours to stop the use of pneumatic horns used by vehicles in Dhaka city.

In response to a writ petition, the court asked the authorities to submit a report before it in two weeks after complying with the directive.

The HC ordered the government officials concerned to take effective steps to stop import of pneumatic horns and confiscate such horns from the markets in seven days and to submit a compliance report to this effect to the court in four weeks.

The officials are: inspector general of police, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), deputy inspector general of police (highways), joint commissioner (traffic) of DMP, and chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

The HC also asked the officials concerned to take steps so that no vehicles can

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina comforts a woman as she breaks down into her arms at Prime Minister's Office yesterday, when she distributed cheques among injured persons and family members of those who were killed in violence allegedly by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in Indurkani upazila of Pirojpur in 2014 and 2015. PHOTO: BSS

Advertisement

Mr. Iftekharul Islam, Vice Chairman of Uttara Bank Limited & Managing Director of Aftab Group handed over a cheque of Taka Three crore to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as donation to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund on (23-08-2017) on behalf of the Bank.

HC questions legality of provisions of RPO, party registration rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of some provisions of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) and Political Party Registration Rules (PPRR) that imposed preconditions for floating a political party and its registration with the Election Commission (EC).

The court issued a rule asking the EC and the government to explain in four weeks why the provisions should not be declared unconstitutional.

The EC, its secretary and law secretary have been made respondents to the rule, Deputy Attorney General Amatul Karim Swapna told The Daily Star.

The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Faruque came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by former BNP leader and former minister Barrister Nazmul Huda challenging the legality of the provisions of RPO and PPRR.

After the court issued the rule, Barrister Nazmul Huda, who had tried to form a new political party named Trinomul BNP, told reporters that under the provisions of RPO and PPRR, there are some preconditions for forming a political party and its registration, which are against the constitution.

According to the provisions, a politician has to be elected lawmaker for at least one time, he or she has to get at least five percent votes of the constituency, the party has to have committees in at least one-third administrative districts, office at 100 upazilas and have at least 200 voters at a thana to form a political party and its registration with the EC, he said.

DECEIVING CUSTOMERS, DECEIVING SOCIETY

Recent sudden drives conducted by RAB, many fake manufacturers and sellers of SONY TV have been caught. Have you been a victim of buying fake SONY TV? Know how to identify original SONY TV!

Police and RAB conduct operation against duplicate SONY Television

Seized fake SONY Serial Number, Logo & Television

Seized fake SONY Television, Screen Print Machine

Seized fake SONY Television making Instruments, Packets and Pen-drive.

SONY TV is a renowned brand for manufacturing TV globally. In Bangladesh, SONY TV is also the most popular brand in the world of television. According to the survey of Brand Forum Bangladesh, SONY BRAVIA LED TV ranks first for ensuring the best customer satisfaction and has been holding the top position for the last seven years consecutively. The reason of such popularity is the brand's non-competitive performance, clear sound, performance, durability and after sales service. Taking the advantage of the dependency of customer towards the brand, the popularity of this brand and its quality, a number of dishonest businessmen are making duplicate copies of SONY TV. They are using fake logo in body, accessories and packets along with inserting the logo in the TV software for visibility of the logo on the screen while TV turn-on of local or duplicate televisions. A huge network of this duplicate business is being maintained from e-commerce sites, social media pages, different show rooms, and shops in many places including in the district level areas. They are also deceiving the customers by putting the logo and name of the company in the banners of the shops. This information has been revealed after a mobile court carried out a raid in several markets of Dhaka including Multiplan Center at Elephant Road & Sundarban Square Market at Gulistan. Different media reported this news along with the daily Prothom Alo, the daily Prothom Alo online, the daily Ittefaq and the daily Manobkantha. RAB's executive magistrate Mr. Sarwar Alam charged three shop owners with Tk Lakhs fine and imprisonment in different tenures. According to RAB, different shops in Sundarban market, Stadium market and shops of Elephant Road using the logo of SONY are whole selling these fake products across the country. Ahead of Eid, these businesses are on the rise. The mobile courts are carrying out countrywide operation to stop the selling of these fake products. Some dishonest businessmen are snatching huge amount of money by selling these fake TV in lower prices thereby deceiving customers and bringing a temporary bad name for the company. These fake products show a number of problems within a few days & months. The screen becomes undear- distorted, sound disturbance arises and the panel stops working, even though the television does not work anymore. The fake shops do not provide warranty and affected customers come to the showrooms and service centers of the original SONY. RANGS.Electronics Ltd. is the only official distributor of all the products of SONY which is also known as SONY RANGS. Only after coming to the original showrooms SONY RANGS, the customers can learn that they have been deceived. How will you know which product is an original SONY product? It is really difficult to know which one is fake because of the skilled duplicate made logo, box, accessories and inserting the name in the software. In order to get the original product a customer needs to buy a product from a shop which has both the logos SONY RANGS. written together. The customers need to take proper Invoice, Money Receipt and Warranty Card of Rangs Electronics Ltd. We ask customers not be buy any products from other showrooms where the shop name is written like SONY Samsung Panasonic SONY BRAVIA SONY Panasonic SONY SAMSUNG SONY BRAVIA SONY SAMSUNG

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