



LUXURY BUSES

Driven by growing demand, more and more AC buses ply highways

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RUSSIA FOR GULF UNITY

Sergei Lavrov urges Arab countries, Qatar to solve crisis thru' direct talks

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TEST BREAK FOR SHAKIB?

Bangladesh's ace all-rounder asks BCB for six-month rest from Test cricket

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2ND SUBMARINE CABLE Users denied full benefit

Speed, cheaper data to stay elusive because of BTCL, govt-run cable company

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh yesterday launched its second submarine cable connection for commercial use, making another stride in ensuring uninterrupted internet connectivity and boosting online-based business.

Industry experts, however, say this cable with a capacity of up to 1,500 Gigabits per second (Gbps) bandwidth will not bring immediate benefits to end-users as the inland cable network set up by state-owned Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) is not up to the mark.

Suman Ahmed Sabir, chief strategy officer of international internet gateway Fibre@Home, said this connection would give the industry some comfort but the consumers would not get any immediate benefit from it.

Fibre@Home, along with five other companies, imports around 260 Gbps bandwidth from India.

"First, we need to see the reliability of the connection, then we will decide whether to take bandwidth from it or not. If we decide to do so, we will have to maintain our connectivity with India as well," said Sabir.

Imdadul Haque, general secretary of Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB), also echoed his views.

"If we get service from the second cable at competitive

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Kidnap abroad, ransom here

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They have been held hostage in Libya and tortured brutally by fellow Bangladeshis. Video clips of their sufferings have then been sent to their relatives by members of the network here asking for ransom.

The victims -- Ayub Ali, 25, and Rubel, 28, -- from Naogaon are still in captivity in Libya.

Meanwhile, the Police Bureau of Investigation arrested six members of the gang, who had been operating from here, in Kishoreganj and Narsingdi in the last three days.

Ayub went to Libya in 2012 and was working there at a petrol pump while Rubel was working as a mason since 2013. They communicated with their families regularly and sent money home before their abduction on July 21. Their passports, mobile phones and money were immediately seized.

A gang led by one Bakir Mia was behind the kidnapping. They abduct Bangladeshi nationals working there and torture them in unknown locations, said Abul Kalam Azad, special superintendent of the PBI, at a press briefing at its Dhaka Metro Office in Agargaon yesterday.

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Victims: Ayub and Rubel



Aged about 90, this woman was crying incessantly inside a Rohingya camp at Kutupalong in Ukchia yesterday. She would not talk, but her compatriots said she fled to Bangladesh a few days ago and does not know where her family members are.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

3,00,000 AND COUNTING

Govt allocates 2,000 acres for Rohingyas

Biometric registration may start tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to shelter the Rohingyas, who have entered Bangladesh since August 25, in a particular place and bring all of them under biometric registration.

It has allocated 2,000 acres of forest land to build a temporary camp for the refugees. More land will be allocated, if necessary.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told journalists about the government decision after a meeting at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

The meeting came in the wake of fresh refugee inflow triggered by the counter-offensive launched by the Myanmar military following insurgent attacks on

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Diseases stalk new camps

If sanitation, safe drinking water not ensured for refugees, things might worsen, fear aid workers

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

Tasmin has lost everything, literally, when the Myanmar army burned down her house in Andaung village in Maundaw.

But that is past and she has no time for that now. Her current concern is her eight-month-old son, Firozmin, who has been suffering from dysentery, fever and cough.

"I couldn't go to any doctor because I don't know anyone," she said sitting by the road at Balurdhala of Ukchia where she, her husband and her son took shelter on Saturday but could not manage a shade over their head yet.

During the perilous journey -- two days in Myanmar and seven days in Bangladesh with stopovers in Teknaf -- since September 2, the family had to get wet in the rain and then dry in the sun several



Rohingya children collecting muddy water.

times over. The elements took their toll on the baby boy.

In the last one week, the family got khichuri for two meals. For the rest of the times, they mainly ate flattened rice, puffed rice and biscuits they got from locals.

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Dhaka wants the world by its side

Urges int'l community to make Myanmar implement Annan commission recommendations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday urged the global community to come up with urgent humanitarian assistance to help Bangladesh address the refugee crisis and make Myanmar agree on immediate and unconditional implementation of Kofi Annan Commission's recommendations.

The government also sought international support in providing shelter and other necessities to over 7,00,000 Myanmar nationals currently living in the country and transporting them to Thengar Char in Hatia where they will be kept until they go back home.

Briefing Dhaka-based foreign diplomats about the influx of Rohingyas, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said around 3,00,000 have entered Bangladesh in the last two weeks.

He also mentioned that Bangladesh has already been hosting around 4,00,000 Rohingyas for three decades. A total of over 7,00,000 Myanmar nationals are now in

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AH Mahmood Ali

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TOP!
QUOTE

"The baby gets little breastfeeding. I don't get to eat myself. Where would the boy get milk from?... Can you help me find a doctor?"

ROHINGYA REFUGEE

TASMIN

SITTING BY THE ROAD AT BALURDHALA OF UKHIA IN COX'S BAZAR



Three girls on a bike in the capital's Paribagh yesterday. Females riding motorbikes is not a common sight in Dhaka city. Seemingly enjoying the ride, they forgot a few traffic rules: two persons per bike and helmets.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Lukewarm response to nurses' new uniforms

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SHADMA MALIK

The government decision to change the nurses' uniform is being implemented slowly as the majority of the health care providers are reluctant to take up their new attire.

Most women staff nurses, especially the senior ones, are not willing to trade their white saris for western outfits.

They are not comfortable in shirt and trousers and are used to the old uniform.

"Nurses keep complaining about the uniform. We have informed them twice about the health ministry's decision to change their uniform," said Shirin Akhter, assistant director (administration) of Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM).

According to a circular of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on November 21, olive green shirt, cap and black trousers with black shoes would replace the white sari and cap.

There are about 30,000 nurses across the country. About 90 percent of them are women, said Asaduzzaman Jewel, general secretary of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) unit of Bangladesh Nurses Association (BNA).

He added that the nurses are slowly adopting their new uniforms. But that is mostly because they are not paid their dress and washing allowances of around Tk 850 a



month if they did not switch to the new uniform.

Majority of over 2,200 nurses at DMCH have been wearing the old uniform. However, most staffers at Dhaka Nursing College near DMCH are wearing the olive green uniform in compliance with the directive.

Nurses at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, and National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases were seen donning

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