

Rice imports

FROM PAGE 16
 Bangladesh was experiencing a serious crisis due to the Rohingya influx to the country.
 "Does the minister get special discounts?" he asked.
 In his reply, the minister said trade and diplomatic efforts would go side by side with Myanmar.
 "I went to Myanmar to buy rice from there following the prime minister's permission. The PM said diplomatic efforts will continue to resolve the Rohingya issue. But our trade with Myanmar will also continue," Qamrul said.

Highlighting the facilities of importing rice from Myanmar, he said it would take only three days to import the rice from the country.
 "We can buy the rice at a cheaper rate in comparison with Thailand and Vietnam. It takes 15 to 20 days to import rice from Thailand and Vietnam. We are buying rice from Myanmar as we will be able to import quickly," he said.
 The food minister added that the government signed an agreement with Myanmar to import 3 lakh tonnes of rice. "We will get 1.20 lakh tonnes of rice in the first phase."
 Answering another question, the minister said the price of rice remains stable at present. "The rice price remains within the purchasing capacity of the people."



Rohingya refugee Rukia Begum, 30, gave birth to a baby boy at 4:00am yesterday at the Doctors Without Border's clinic at Kutupalong in Ukha of Cox's Bazar. At 10:30am, she left the clinic and was going all on her own to a makeshift camp. PHOTO: PORIMOL PALMA

Tofa, Tohura

FROM PAGE 2
 The doctors have asked for monthly follow-ups of the twins.
 An account has also been opened to welcome donations for their rehabilitation and further surgeries. The Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd account number is 13915173740.

Flood-hit

FROM PAGE 16
 Journalists that it would be possible to produce huge crops worth Tk 727.59 crore by providing farmers the incentive.
 Matia said the farmers would get necessary seeds and fertilisers for growing 10 crops, including wheat, maize, mustard, bean, Khesari lentil, peanut and Bt Brinjal, on 72,306 hectares of land across the country.
 Some 87,250 wheat cultivators, 1,40,150 maize cultivators, 2,09,900 mustard cultivators, 7,200 peanut cultivators, 22,500 summertime sesame cultivators, 39,900 mugh dal cultivators and 9,000 masur (lentil) cultivators, 20,300 maskalai cultivators and 2,001 Bt brinjal cultivators will get the incentive.

Swamped

FROM PAGE 16
 Water at CDA Residential area started to recede at 3:30pm with the tide, said the metrological department.
 Several schools in Halishahar including Silver Bells Girls' High School, Housing & Settlement Public School and Bidyaban Shishu Academy were forced to suspend classes due to the rain.
 Sajeda Akhter, assistant head teacher of Silver Bells Girls' High School, said, "Waterlogging forced us to suspend academic activities as the children could not come to school."
 The waterlogging also hindered regular traffic movement as many vehicles had to take detours.
 Taking advantage of the situation, transport workers charged commuters exuberantly.
 Delwar Hossain, a dweller of K-block area of Halishahar, said he could not go to work yesterday as the entire street from his home to work was under water.

Floods kill at least six as storms thrash Italy

AFP, Rome

At least six people have died in violent rainstorms sweeping across Italy yesterday, with the Tuscan city of Livorno taking the brunt of the flooding, fire services said.

Four people from the same family were found dead in a flooded house in the city, where 40 centimetres (16 inches) of rainfall in four hours transformed streets into rivers and washed away cars.

The dead were a little boy, his parents and his grandfather, all found in a basement apartment, local daily Il Tirreno said.

The grandfather, who lived on first floor, had managed to rescue a three-year-old girl from the basement but died when he went back to try and save a four-year-old boy, it said.

A fifth body was found in an area devastated by landslides, while a sixth was found in a nearby hilltop neighbourhood.

A seventh person was killed in a road accident, though it was not yet clear whether it was due to the weather.

Two other people were still believed to be missing, the fire brigade said.

"The situation is very difficult, it's critical. The city is on its knees," Livorno mayor Filippo Nogarini said. He said the government had underestimated the danger, issuing a code orange alert for the region rather than red.

"We didn't expect this because the alert was orange. Then we woke up to this," he said adding that the death toll "may still rise" and could have been avoided entirely if they had known what was coming.

PM opens

FROM PAGE 2
 get its benefit, making the communication easier.

She said the second submarine cable is a fulfilment of their stride that they had initiated after coming to power in 1996.

The PM said her government attached importance to the development of the country's southern part as it was neglected for a long time.

The PM also inaugurated a number of projects of the LGRD and Cooperatives ministry being implemented in Patuakhali.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Govt allocates

FROM PAGE 1
 30 police posts and an army base in Rakhine State on August 25.

Also yesterday, Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya informed parliament that the government would shelter all the Rohingya refugees, including the new arrivals, at Thengar Char in Hatia until their return to Myanmar.

Nearly 3,00,000 people have arrived in the last two weeks, pushing the number of Rohingyas living in this country to over 6,00,000.

The home ministry meeting decided to restrict the movement of refugees and make all-out efforts so that they are not listed as voters and do not get Bangladeshi passports.

Besides, the meeting stressed the need for cooperation from local government bodies for the documentation of Rohingyas.

It also recommended monitoring public representatives so that they cannot help Rohingyas get listed as voters to create vote bank.

The meeting, attended by top bureaucrats and chiefs of law enforcement agencies, decided that Rohingyas will be given identification cards in the presence of international representatives.

According to meeting sources, the biometric registration will start tomorrow and 10 teams from the Department of Immigration and Passport will supervise it.

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, "We allocated 2,000 acres of forest land in Ukha under Cox's Bazar for Rohingyas and we will allocate more land in the area, if necessary."

Rohingyas who are not biometrically registered will not be allowed to board any transport within Bangladesh's territory. They will not get any kind of support without it, he said.

The home boss also said the new Rohingya camp in Ukha will be fenced with barded wires and members of law enforcers will be deployed for their security.

"We are sheltering Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds and we are taking initiatives so that they stay here in peace. We will do everything in this regard," he said.

In parliament, ruling Awami League MP Kamal Ahmed Majumder wanted to know the government measures to mitigate sufferings of the Rohingya people.

In reply, Maya shared his experience of Friday's visit to Ukha, saying he saw an elderly Rohingya who reached Bangladesh border after walking 65km, taking his mother on his back.

"Nobody will understand their sufferings unless they visit the area," he added.

Maya also told the House about the decision to shelter all the Rohingyas at Thengar Char until they are taken back by Myanmar.

Modi, Abe to start India's first bullet train project

AFP, Ahmedabad

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will break ground on India's first bullet train project on Thursday in western Gujarat state, as the country seeks faster travel for millions.

Modi has pledged to invest billions of dollars to modernise India's creaking railway system, with the bullet train one of his key election promises ahead of his landslide victory in 2014.

The leaders will lay the foundation stone of the high-speed rail network between Ahmedabad -- the

capital city of Modi's home state -- and India's financial hub of Mumbai on September 14, a statement by the Gujarat government said Saturday.

Japan is a pioneer in high-speed rail networks, and its Shinkansen bullet train is among the fastest in the world.

Japan will provide 85 percent of the total project cost of \$19 billion in soft loans.

The train will reduce the travel time between the two cities from eight to three-3.5 hours, and is expected to complete by December 2023. It will have a capacity of 750 passengers.

India's traditional railway network is the world's fourth largest by distance and remains the vast country's main form of travel, with 22 million passengers commuting daily.

But passengers have to often endure chronic delays in journeys on the British-era network, where only a few trains hit 100 miles per hour, and which has been hit by series of deadly crashes in past years.

Cyprus rescues 305 Syrian refugees in two boats

AFP, Nicosia

Cypriot authorities brought ashore more than 300 Syrian refugees early yesterday after spotting two boats in open water off the northwest coast of the Mediterranean island, police said.

It was one of the largest waves of migrants to be received by Cypriot authorities in a single day since civil war erupted in Syria in 2011.

The 305 migrants, who included 30 women and 73 children, said they had set off from the Turkish port of Mersin and paid up to \$2,000 (1,600 euros) each for the crossing.

Police arrested a 36-year-old man on suspicion of piloting one of the boats. He was expected to appear before a court in the resort town of Paphos later yesterday.

Cyprus, an EU member state located 160 kilometres (100 miles) from Syria's Mediterranean coast, has not seen the massive inflow of migrants experienced by Turkey and Greece.

Users denied

FROM PAGE 1
 prices, we will not use imported bandwidth. But the service needs to be up to the mark."

Abu Saeed Khan, senior policy fellow at Colombo based think-tank LIRNEasia, said this new connection would not be able to ensure faster data speed for consumers as each domestic unit of the BTCL is capable of carrying only 10 Gbps bandwidth.

Industry insiders say the state-run Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Ltd (BSCCL) arbitrarily fixes the bandwidth price, which is higher than that of the bandwidth brought from India.

Imported bandwidth costs around Tk 350 per Mbps. If any company buys high volume of bandwidth, the price goes down.

On the other hand, the BSCCL charges a minimum of Tk 560 per Mbps. The price goes up if the volume of bandwidth is low, they say.

"Price is one of our concerns when it comes to using BSCCL-provided bandwidth. If the government reduces the price, we will go for local bandwidth," said Sabir.

Consumption of imported bandwidth is much higher than that of BSCCL-provided bandwidth because of the price gap, he added.

Talking to this correspondent last week, BSCCL Managing Director Monwar Hossain said they were planning to slash the wholesale price of bandwidth by 20 percent after the commercial launch of the second cable network.

The total bandwidth use in the country has reached around 450 Gbps. Of the amount, 260 Gbps come from India and 180 Gbps are provided by BSCCL.

Through the new cable "South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 5 (SEA-ME-WE 5)", 50 Gbps bandwidth is being carried to the inland network, said Parvez M Ashraf, project director of SEA-ME-WE 5.

He also said they could increase the transmission up to 200 Gbps, depending on the demand.

The lifespan of the cable is 20 years, which could be increased by another five years through optimum maintenance.

Besides this one, the country is connected with a submarine cable through Cox's Bazar and six more cables through India.

Though the task of laying the second submarine cable up to Kuakata landing station in Patuakhali was completed eight months ago for Tk 660 crore, the cable could not be connected to the inland network due to the BTCL's failure to ensure an uninterrupted inland link.

The government announced inaugurating the commercial use of the cable in mid-March. Later, it deferred the date to July 31. But the link between the landing station and the capital could not be fully readied for commercial use within the stipulated time.

Finally, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the cable's commercial use from the Gono Bhaban through video conference yesterday.

Saeed Khan, also ex-secretary general of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh, said, "The losses due to the delay should be quantified and the persons responsible should be held accountable."

This newspaper tried to reach the

managing directors of both the BTCL and the BSCCL over the phone yesterday but failed.

A 19-member consortium of 16 nations had laid the undersea cable across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

On March 6, 2014, the BSCCL signed a deal with the consortium to get connected with it.

Sabir said Bangladesh needs to be connected with at least three to four submarine cables to ensure quality internet service.

Saeed Khan suggested that the government establish a link between the two landing stations in Cox's Bazar and Kuakata for better service.

"But I have doubts whether the current management of the BTCL has the capacity to do a job like that."

He also recommended engaging private companies in setting up submarine cable network to bring competition to the market.

The BSCCL is enjoying monopoly on this business in the country. If the government allows private investments, this would untimely create scopes for the customers to get the highest level of service, said Saeed Khan.

"India, Pakistan and even Sri Lanka have allowed private investment in cable business... Why not Bangladesh?"

The LIRNEasia fellow also suggested that the BSCCL look for prospective customers for exporting bandwidth.

The BSCCL borrowed \$44 million from the Islamic Development Bank to bear the expenses of the second submarine cable. The instalments of the repayment will begin next month.

Kidnapped

FROM PAGE 16
 husband is in Singapore.

Talking to this correspondent, Hasina burst into tears and said the "kidnappers" did not feed her son anything since they abducted him on Saturday noon.

Hasina, who was present at the briefing, was seen bottle-feeding her son and kissing him again and again.

DC Ibrahim said Hasina went to Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital from Munshiganj's Sreenagar upazila on Saturday. Visiting doctors, she went to buy some medicines, keeping Hasib and her 11-year-old daughter Lamia on the stairs in front of the medical college hospital outdoor.

Moments later, she found her son and daughter were not there. Although she got her daughter in front of the hospital morgue, her son Hasib went missing, said the police official.

At that time, she received a call from an unknown man who demanded Tk 2 lakh as ransom for release of her son. Hasina later filed a kidnapping case with Kotwali Police Station. Tracking the phone, police conducted the drive in Narayanganj and rescued Hasib, he said.

Ibrahim added that "kidnapper" Anwar was familiar to Hasina, and she often travelled in his auto-rickshaw. As Anwar knew about her movement, he made the abduction plan, Ibrahim added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
 সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট
 ☎ ০৪৬৮-৬২৪৮৫
 📠 ০৪৬৮-৬৩২২৪
 ই-মেইল- eebeg@rhd.gov.bd

জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত PPRP-II(AF) কারিগরি প্রকল্পের DLI অর্থায়নের আওতায় সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক Tenderer's Database Management System-TDMS প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে যা সওজ অধিদপ্তরের website (www.portal.rhd.gov.bd) থেকে access করা যাচ্ছে। সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের ২০১৭-১৮ অর্থ বছরের দরপত্র কার্যক্রম শুরু হতে যাচ্ছে। এ সকল দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কার্যক্রমে ঠিকাদারগণের যোগ্যতা (qualification) ডিজিটাল পদ্ধতিতে অত্যন্ত দ্রুততার সাথে পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা ও যাচাই কাজে TDMS-এর প্রয়োগ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র দলিলের TDS-এ শর্ত আরোপের বিষয়ে সিপিটিইউ সম্মতি প্রদান করেছেন।

নিম্নের ছক অনুযায়ী দরপত্র মূল্যায়নে TDMS ডাটাবেজ-এর প্রয়োগ কার্যকর হবেঃ

দরপত্রের অনুমোদনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নে TDMS ডাটাবেজ এর প্রয়োগ কার্যকর হওয়ার তারিখ
যে সকল দরপত্রের অনুমোদনকারী প্রধান প্রকৌশলী ও তদূর্ধ্ব	২০ আগষ্ট ২০১৭ পরবর্তী আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রসমূহে
যে সকল দরপত্রের অনুমোদনকারী অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী	২০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৭ পরবর্তী আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রসমূহে
যে সকল দরপত্রের অনুমোদনকারী অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী'র নিম্ন পর্যায়ে	২০ অক্টোবর ২০১৭ পরবর্তী আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রসমূহে

এমতাবস্থায়, সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের ই-জিপি দরপত্রসমূহের মূল্যায়ন কার্যক্রমে TDMS ডাটাবেজ এর প্রয়োগ কার্যকর করার লক্ষ্যে অধিদপ্তরের সকল ক্রয়কারী এবং ঠিকাদারগণকে বর্ণিত ছক মোতাবেক প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

অনুরোধক্রমে
 মোঃ আনিসুজ্জামান মাসুদ
 পরিচিতি নং-৬০১৯৫২
 নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ (চঃদাঃ)
 সড়ক বিভাগ, বাগেরহাট

জিডি-১৮৩৫

NATIONAL TUBES LIMITED
 API LICENSEE AND ISO:9001:2015 CERTIFIED COMPANY
 (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)
 131-142, TONGI INDUSTRIAL AREA, GAZIPUR-1710.

আমদানি পাইপ নামে ব্যত নাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড এর এপিআই, এমএস ও জিআই পাইপ নিরাপত্তা ও দীর্ঘস্থায়ী
 ১২ মার্চ ২০১৭ ইং থেকে হ্রাসকৃত মূল্যে পাইপ বিক্রয় হচ্ছে।

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited by Managing Director, National Tubes Ltd. for **appointment of Pre-shipment and Post Landing Inspection Agent** from the internationally reputed Inspection Agent/Company :

SI No.	Reference No.	Description	Earnest Money	Price of Tender documents	Last Selling date of tender document	Closing / Opening Date & time
1.	NTL/COM(1)/PSI/Tender-02/17 Date: 09-09-2017	Appointment of Pre-shipment and Post Landing Inspection Agent	US \$ 2450.00 or Tk. 2,00,000.00	Tk. 2000.00 (Taka Two thousand) only (non-refundable)	22-10-2017 (within office hour)	Closing 23-10-2017 at 11-30 AM opening on the same date at 12.00 NOON

In case of unavoidable circumstances the offer will be received on the next working day and opened at the same place and time. Tender documents may be obtained during working hours (excepting on opening date) on cash payment from the following addresses :

- Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- Cash Section, National Tubes Ltd., 131-142 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710.

The Tenders / Bids will be received at the following addresses :

- Purchase Division (4th Floor), Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- National Tubes Ltd., Commercial Dept., 131-142 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710.

(MD. AFRUZZAMAN SHARIF)
 Head of Commercial Department
 Phone : 01858-037847