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ROBI COUNTS LOSSES

The mobile operator incurred a net loss of Tk 46.9cr in July-September

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JFK ASSASSINATION

His 'bad back' could have contributed to his death after being shot

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ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

Return to start in two months

Bangladesh, Myanmar sign instrument; FM says it's first step; no mention of any timeframe for concluding repatriation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Myanmar have reached an arrangement to begin in two months the repatriation of the Rohingyas who have fled to Bangladesh from Rakhine State over the last one year to escape persecution.

"The return shall commence within two months," Bangladesh foreign ministry said in a statement issued hours after the signing of an "arrangement" yesterday on the repatriation of the refugees sheltered in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Myanmar Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe signed the instrument at the State Counsellor's Office in Naypyitaw.

Later, Mahmood told reporters that this is the "first step". He, however, didn't mention any timeframe for concluding the repatriation.

The foreign minister said he would give details of the arrangement at a press briefing in Dhaka tomorrow.

"A Joint Working Group will be established within three weeks of signing the 'arrangement'. A specific bilateral instrument (physical arrangement) for repatriation will be concluded in a speedy manner," reads the foreign ministry statement.

The two countries, which tussled over the terms and

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Experts not optimistic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign relation experts say they are not optimistic about the deal signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar on return of the Rohingyas, as the bilateral instrument did not set any timeframe on completing the repatriation and failed to mention the role of the UN in the process.

Referring to the previous experiences of dealing with Myanmar in regard to Rohingya repatriation, they said Myanmar has always used its tactics of dragging and going ahead with its

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The Daily Star on November 5 published two photos of this worn-out footbridge near Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital to show how dangerous it had become. Weeks have gone by but the bridge has not been repaired. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ROHINGYA INFUX
6,22,000
AND COUNTING

- ▶ Joint working group to be formed within three weeks
- ▶ Deal based on 1992 joint statement: Myanmar
- ▶ Details of the new deal still not available



PHOTO: REUTERS

People helping nine-month pregnant Rohingya refugee Taslima, 18, in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar yesterday, after she crossed the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

UGC RECOMMENDATION ON PUBLIC UNIVERSITY ADMISSION Written test along with MCQ

WASIM BIN HABIB

The University Grants Commission has proposed introducing written examinations along with the existing multiple choice question in the admission tests for public universities.

The apex body of the country's higher education thinks that written exams would be a better measure of the writing and analytical skills of students and also help prevent ques-

tion paper leaks, said UGC officials.

"We want examinations that would test writing and analytical skills of the students and therefore, we are proposing to keep a big portion [of the exams] as written test, shortening the MCQ section," UGC Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star.

He mentioned that in the MCQ question format, irregularities like question leaks for the admission test are easier. The questions get leaked just

at the beginning of the test due to the question pattern, he said.

"If the written test is introduced, students will have to write. We want our students to write," Mannan added.

The commission would soon send the aforementioned proposal, along with other recommendations, including establishing a research university, introducing uniform admission test for students' enrolment in public

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Power tariff to rise from December

Average hike 5.3pc; left parties call hartal for Nov 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Much to the chagrin of consumers, rights groups and businesses, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday raised the power tariff by 5.3 percent or Tk 0.35 per kilowatt-hour unit on an average.

The new tariff will come into effect from December 1, said BERC Chairman Monowar Islam while announcing the decision at his office.

The tariff was hiked to meet the revenue requirement of power distributors.

The price was increased just a day after a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report said 53 percent of the enterprises in Bangladesh identify the lack of consistent access to energy as the major barrier to higher production.

BERC said while fixing the new rate, the commission has taken into consideration the interests of all consumers, including companies, industries and people of low-income groups.

But the commission did not raise bulk power tariff demanded by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) because of a government promise to provide Tk 3,600 crore as subsidies.

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BASIC BANK SCAM
ACC to quiz Bacchu, 10 ex-directors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday summoned former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu and 10 former directors of the bank to its office for interrogation in scam cases involving about Tk 4,500 crore.

The move came over two years after the graft watchdog filed 56 cases against bankers over the loan scam that took place in the state-run bank between 2010 and 2013.

The ACC, however, didn't

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2 more pvt banks in the offing

Despite central bank's reservations, govt set to give green light

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank is completing the primary process for issuing licences to two more private banks, which analysts claimed would be detrimental to the banking industry and the economy as a whole.

The finance ministry on November 15 sent a letter to the central bank asking it to take measures required to issue the licences, sources said.

In September, the Bangladesh Bank had turned down the licence requests of the two banks on the ground that financial health of many banks, especially the nine newest, were deteriorating and that there was no need for new banks.

The BB had apprised Finance Minister AMA Muhith its decision in a letter that month but the minister asked the central

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ANANTA
MR SHARIF ZAHIR, MANAGING DIRECTOR

ANANTA APPARELS LTD RECEIVES KOR BAHADUR TAX CARD AWARD (2016-17) AND COMMERCIALLY IMPORTANT PERSON (2015) AWARD

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