

REGD. NO. DA 781

Vol. XXVIII No. 217

Your Right to Know

20 PAGES PRICE: TK 12.00



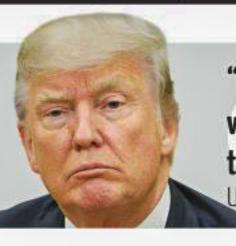
"The whole country knows that the attack [August 21 grenade attack] was planned by Hawa Bhaban."

L GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER (PAGE 3)



"Their [govt high-ups] comments give people an impression that a dictated verdict is going to be delivered [in August 21 grenade attack case]."

BNP SENIOR JOINT SECRETARY GENERAL RUHUL KABIR RIZVI (PAGE 3)



"I don't believe they [China] are helping with the process of denuclearisation as they once were."

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (PAGE 8)

### AIRPORT-GAZIPUR BRT LINE

# Cost doubles, 20pc progress in 6 years

TAWFIQUE ALI

It's another classic case of delay in project implementation and a whopping rise in the project cost in the process.

The project for an extended 20.5km rapid bus service for mass transport between Gazipur and Shahjalal International Airport was taken up in 2012. Six years later, only 20 percent of the job

deadline ends in December, according to project documents. So those with a dream of commuting this route with an on-time, reliable modern bus

has been completed although the current

service may have to wait another six years, officials said.

But it will come at a heavy price too. Already, the original estimated project cost has more than doubled to Tk 4,264 crore from Tk 2,040 crore.

"It means an absurd average cost of around \$26 million [about Tk 218 crore] for building a kilometre of Rapid Bus Transit (BRT) service while the global standard is highest \$6 million," said Prof Shamsul Hoque, a former technical expert for the proposed BRT system.

Citing the manual of New York-based Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, he said the philosophy of the BRT service was that it would be built at a minimum cost, ideally within two years, on existing roads. "In Bangladesh, it seems it's going to take

more than a decade," he said, adding that such slow progress and the extremely high cost were making the scheme look impractical. A top project official said poor planning

and a lack of experience in building a BRT system were causing the delay.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Construction work of Rapid Bus Transit near Gazipur intersection. Left, a depot being constructed for buses that would ply between Gazipur and Shahjalal International Airport. The photos were taken recently.

> РНОТО: SK ENAMUL HAQ

#### Inexperience, lengthy bidding process cause delay

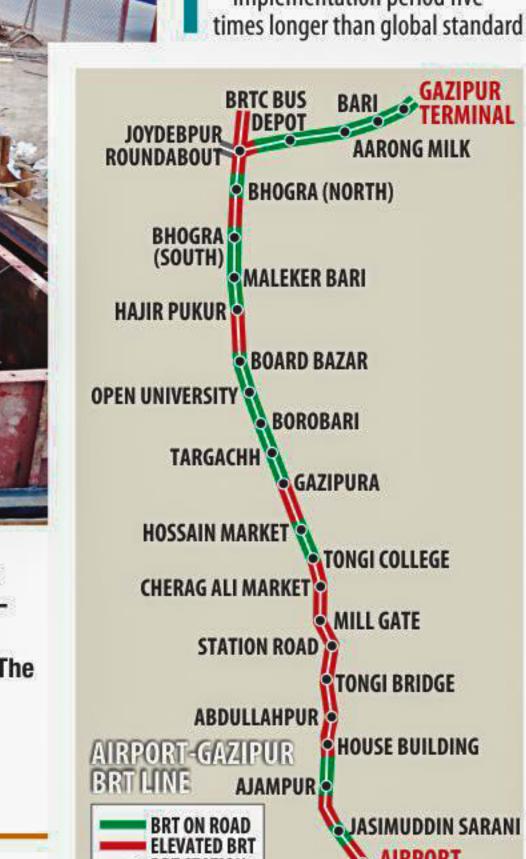
Set to take longer than a decade for completion

Project cost over four times

higher than global standard

Implementation period five

AIRPORT TERMINAL



BRT STATION

## ONE YEAR INTO THE BIGGEST ROHINGYA INFLUX

## Rakhine horror recounted

Rohingyas in refugee camps observe 'Black Day', demand justice

STAR REPORT

The Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar's refugee camps yesterday recalled the horrors of killings, rapes and torching of their houses by the Myanmar military exactly a year ago.

Holding banners and placards, Rohingya men, women and children in their thousands marched through the camps in Ukhia and Teknaf as they observed August 25 as "Genocide Day" and "Black Day".

The placards, which bore drawings of four hands with English words "justice, rights, Rohingya and back home" projected their demands on the first anniversary of the crackdown in Rakhine which forced 720,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh.

"On this day last year, we left behind all the belongings and fled our homes in Rakhine to save our lives as the military burned our village and killed our people. The memories are still vivid in my mind," said 50-year-old Maulana Manjur Alam, who came out of his camp at Madhurchhara in Kutupalong to join demonstrations.

#### SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO





We want justice and to return home with citizenship," he said.

Since 9:00am yesterday, Rohingyas in large numbers kept coming out of their makeshift houses in the camps. They marched through the camps, chanted slogans and called for urgent action from global leaders to pave the way for their return home.

According to Doctors without Borders, at least 6,700 Rohingyas were killed in a month order. since the military crackdown began on August 25 last year following an attack by Rohingya insurgents on police posts in Rakhine.

Rohingya activists said rape was used as a weapon in violence that was described by the

### Funds so far inadequate

Ensuring basic needs of Rohingyas a major challenge as response from int'l community waning

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

When the Rohingyas started pouring into Bangladesh with horrific stories of atrocities committed by the Myanmar military, people of Ukhia and Teknaf welcomed them with dry food and water.

As the exodus sparked a never-seenbefore humanitarian disaster in no time, people from other parts of Bangladesh rushed to Cox's Bazar with cash, food and other basic necessities for the refugees.

Terming it the world's fastest growing refugee crisis, some countries and international organisations also came up with food aid for the persecuted population.

Initially, there was complete chaos but the administration put in herculean efforts and managed to bring the situation in

Now things have taken a different turn. One year has gone by and the return of the Rohingyas still remains elusive while locals outnumbered by Rohingyas are apparently annoyed with the presence of the refugees. Besides, the humanitarian response from



Rohingya refugees at a rally at Kutupalong camp in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Yet another road crash, 15 lives lost

20 others injured as bus and human haulier collide on Natore-Pabna highway



A mangled human haulier on Natore-Pabna highway in Baraigram upazila of Natore. At least 15 people were killed and 20 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and the vehicle yesterday. PHOTO: BULBUL AHMED

BULBUL AHMED, Natore

At least 15 people, including five members of two families, were killed and 20 others injured as a bus collided head-on with a human haulier on Natore-Pabna highway

in Baraigram upazila yesterday. Police said all the dead were passengers of the human haulier, locally known as Laguna which is banned from plying highways.

The accident took place around 3:45pm when the Rangpur-bound bus of Challenger Paribahan rammed the front of the Pabnabound Laguna on the highway in Kadamchhilan Clickmor area, said Shamsur Noor, officer-in-charge of Banpara Highway Police station.

The bus skidded and plunged into a roadside ditch. Both the vehicles were badly damaged.

On information, fire service and police teams from Lalpur and Banpara highway police stations rushed to the spot, some 30 kilometres off Natore town; recovered the bodies and sent the injured to different hospitals.

identities of 13 deceased. They are Adori Biswas, 35, her 10-month-old daughter Swapna Biswas and son Prottoy Biswas, 12, from Pabna's Muladuli upazila, Shapla Khatun, 22, and her 11-month-old daughter Suraiya Khatun Maisha, Rozufa, 45, and her a probe committee, headed by the then sister-in-law Shefali Begum, 40, from Rajapur, Lobejan Begum, 65, from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

### No lessons learned

ANWAR ALI with BULBUL AHMED

Following several road accidents in Natore, the authorities concerned formed probe committees which came up with recommendations to curb such incidents.

As part of the recommendations, reckless driving, including dangerous overtaking, and plying of unfit and unauthorised vehicles were checked on highways. However, things soon became all the same

The result: people keep dying on roads

in the district. In the latest incident, at least 15 people were killed in a head-on collision between a bus and a human haulier on Natore-Pabna highway in Baraigram upazila yesterday.

In the same upazila in October 2014, 33 people were killed as two buses col-Police until last night confirmed the lided head-on on Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway. The accident occurred when a Rajshahi-bound bus from Dhaka overtook a truck and crashed into another bus coming from the opposite direction.

The then district administration formed additional district magistrate Mohammad Ali to probe the incident.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1