

DROP 'HOSTILE POLICIES'

N Korea leader's sister Kim Yo Jong demands South before declaring an end to Korean War

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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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SAFAR 17, 1443 HJIRI

12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



"Bangladeshi peacekeepers are creating a brand name wherever they work. So, we asked them [UN] to appoint Bangladeshis in other areas also."

FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL MOMEN



"When India experienced the surge of Covid in the country, the United States was very proud to support India in its need... I welcome India's announcement that it will soon be able to resume vaccine exports."

US VICE-PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS



"Looking at the Taliban's approach right now, unfortunately an inclusive, encompassing leadership has not been formed."

TURKISH PRESIDENT TAYYIP ERDOGAN

DHAKA-SYLHET-TAMABIL HIGHWAY

Tangles at root of the mess

Land acquisition, utility shifting for corridor expansion delayed, affecting two other major projects

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A project to acquire land and relocate utility service lines for expanding the Dhaka-Sylhet-Tamabil highway is likely to be delayed by two and a half years and cost double, according to the latest revision proposal of the project.

The long delay has also put two major highway expansion projects in jeopardy as officials fear they would not be able to start the physical work by June next year as planned earlier.

The government had taken the Tk 3,586.04 crore project in 2018 for acquiring land and to move the utility service cables and pipes by December last year as preparatory work for expansion of the highway.

The aim of the project was to complete the legwork in advance as these issues often cause delays and so that the expansion work of the road, which connects with India, can start as soon as separate projects are approved.

Two separate projects have already

been taken up by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) to turn Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Tamabil highways into dual carriageways with separate lanes for slow-moving vehicles over the last one year.

These two projects are likely to face trouble and delays as the revised project for clearing the land will end in June 2023 costing 105 percent more money.

This has worried the authorities of the two highway expansion projects, involving Tk 20,500 crore, over being able to start the physical work as scheduled.

They have another thing to worry about.

The financier of Sylhet-Tamabil highway expansion project gave a condition that the work on the ground cannot start until the land clearing was done.

If the financier sticks to its condition, then the project may face huge delay, officials said.

THREE PROJECTS

Land acquisition and moving utility services lines and pipes for any major project are a

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Garbage dumped on what is left of cars and other vehicles impounded at the playground of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in the capital. Tejgaon Industrial Police has been using the playground as an impound for around three years. A child is seen retrieving his ball from the mess. Over the years, parts of the vehicles have been stolen and several rickshaw garages have appeared there. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Commerce ministry keeps passing the buck

Dodgy companies have never paid money they owed

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The commerce ministry has for many years been failing to recover money from fraudulent companies even though the companies are registered with it.

Legal action has been taken against owners of such companies, but there was no record of money recovered from such companies to pay back the affected consumers.

For instance, the commerce ministry could not recover money from Destiny Group, a multi-level marketing (MLM) company, in which thousands invested and incurred losses. The owner of Destiny was sent to jail.

Similarly, money was not recovered and paid back to consumers and merchants of UniPay2U and Jubok, two fraudulent MLM companies.

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Make vaccine access 'universal, affordable'

Hasina says in her UNGA address; Guterres praises PM 'for achieving development miracle'



"This vaccine inequality must be urgently addressed ... we cannot chart out a sustainable recovery and be safe by leaving millions behind."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA AT THE UNGA

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded appropriate global action for "universal and affordable" vaccine access to all for Covid-free world in her 76th UN General Assembly address, warning that the current "vaccine-divides" trend would only linger the pandemic.

"For a Covid-free world, we must ensure universal and affordable access to vaccines for people across the world," she told in her UNGA address in Bangla as previous years, following Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's footprint.

The premier also expressed her grave concern over the growing trend of "vaccine-divides" pointing out World Bank reports

suggesting high and upper middle-income countries received so far 84 percent of vaccines against less than one percent by low-income countries, reports BSS.

"This vaccine inequality must be urgently addressed ... we cannot chart out a sustainable recovery and be safe by leaving millions behind," she said, demanding a UN declaration calling Covid-19 vaccines as a "global public goods" in the weeklong UNGA general debate that began on September 21.

She said the last UNGA remained largely unheeded although many countries echoed the same, but "we must demonstrate our ability to work and act together on global common issues and create space for new partnerships and solutions".

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Pre-departure Covid test to start today

Says expat minister at HSIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

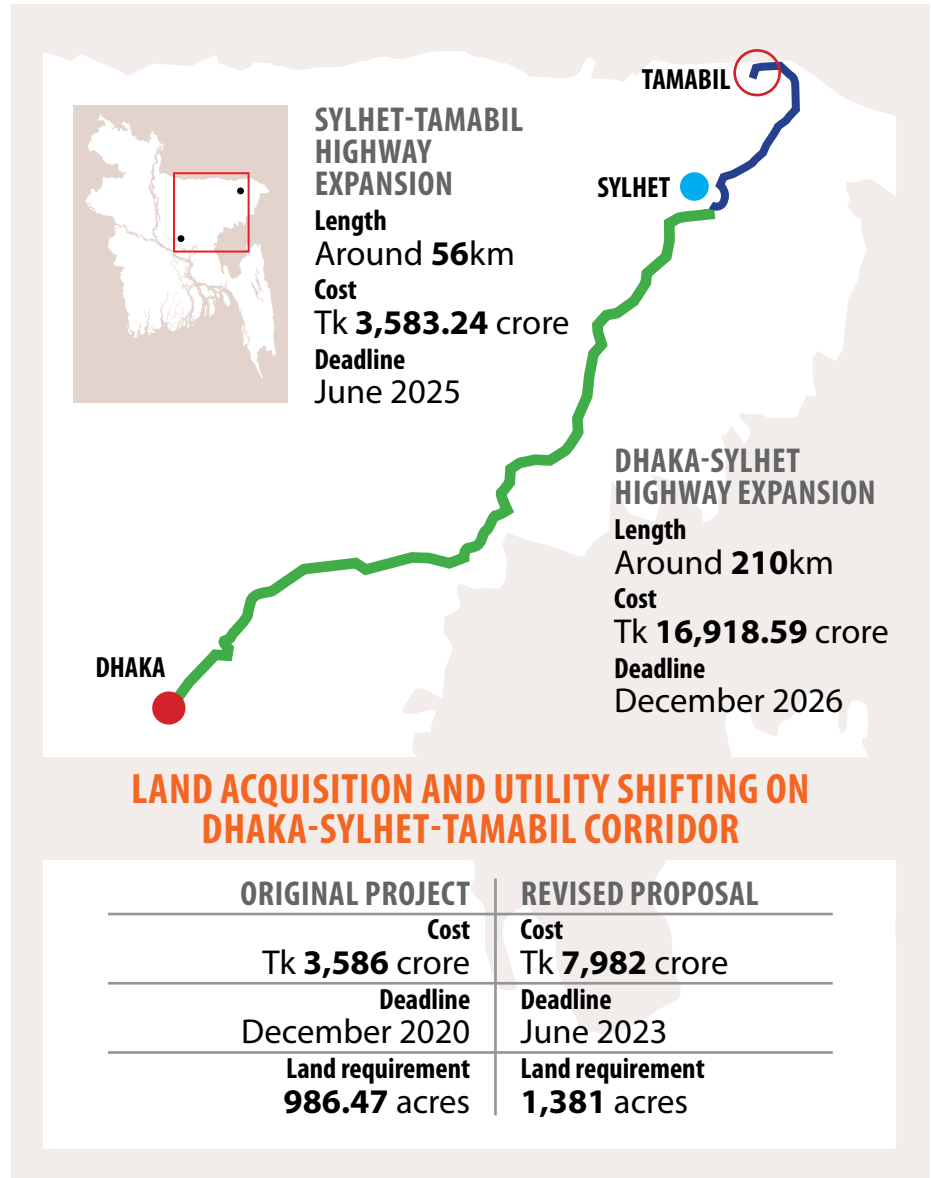
Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday said people will be able to fly to the United Arab Emirates from today if there are flights.

Six healthcare organisations would finish setting up PCR labs at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by the morning today, he told reporters after visiting the airport.

He said different airlines had stopped registering bookings for people travelling to Dubai and Abu Dhabi due to the absence of PCR test facilities.

Several thousand people, who came home on vacation from their workplaces in the UAE, have been desperately waiting to fly back to the Gulf country which last month made it mandatory for foreigners entering the country to get tested for

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Locals watch as the building of the Char Silimpur Government Primary School is slowly devoured by the Padma in Mizanpur union of Rajbari Sadar upazila yesterday. The school, located in Char Silimpur village, was lost to river erosion between 1:00pm and 5:00pm.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BANGLADESHI COPS 140 awarded UN medals for outstanding peacekeeping

UNB, Dhaka

As many as 140 members of Bangladesh Police working with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) have been awarded the UN Medal for their outstanding contribution to the global peacekeeping operations.

The medal was presented to the Bangladesh cops at the MINUSMA headquarters on September 21, where the mission's Police Commissioner General Bettina Patricia Bugani was present as the chief guest.

General Bettina praised the professionalism and dedication of Bangladesh Police in her speech.

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