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Rohingya repatriation may start by December

Says foreign secretary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rohingya repatriation may begin by the end of this year, said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen yesterday.

He made the comment ahead of August 25, the fifth anniversary of the latest Rohingya influx from Myanmar.

"We hope the repatriation will start by the end of this year... They [Rohingyas] are becoming a burden for us," he told journalists after a meeting of the National Taskforce on Rohingyas.

Representatives from UN Resident Coordinator, UN Refugee Agency, International Organization for Migration, UN Food Programme, Unicef and UN Population Fund were present at the meeting.

Besides, the officials of the home, foreign, and disaster management ministries were there.

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Three large paddle vessels lying idle near Sadarghat Launch Terminal. Once, they provided enjoyable and luxurious journeys but now the boats, some of which were built in the British era, have become difficult to keep in service. The vessels are part of our heritage and have attracted tourists as they get a unique way to see the rivers of Bangladesh.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MOMEN'S COMMENTS

Step down within 48hrs

Legal notice served by SC lawyer asks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen asking him to resign from office in 48 hours for his recent comment that foreign relations analysts say is embarrassing and disgraceful for Bangladesh.

While speaking at an event in Chattogram on Thursday, Momen had said he requested the Indian government to do whatever was necessary for the continuity of the Awami League government.

"I went to India and said Sheikh Hasina must stay [in power]. Only then will the country make progress and become a truly non-sectarian country. I asked them to do everything to make that happen," Momen had said.

The minister's comments go against the constitution of Bangladesh, said Md Ershad Hossain Rashed in his legal notice.

As per the constitution, the people of Bangladesh are the source of all powers, Rashed said.

In making the comment, Momen violated his oath as well as the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Subsequently, he cannot continue to serve as the foreign minister.

"Your activities are viewed as an attack on the sovereignty of the country, which is punishable by the relevant law," the legal notice said.

Rashed said he will take necessary legal action against Momen if he does not resign from office within 48 hours.

Meanwhile, Information and Broadcast Minister Hasan

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EC set to use EVM in JS polls

Decision by this month on which parliamentary seats will go for voting with the machines

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is going to use electronic voting machines in the next parliamentary polls when almost all major opposition political parties are dead set against it.

The commission will finalise by this month the number of constituencies where EVMs will be in place for the general election, likely to be held in late December 2023 or early January 2024.

"EVMs will be used in the polls," Election Commissioner Md Alamgir told reporters yesterday.

"However, it has not yet been decided how many parliamentary constituencies will go for voting through EVMs. We will take the decision by the end of this month and you will know it in the first week of September."

He further said they would fix the number of constituencies where voting will be held through EVMs after assessing the capacity of the commission. Currently, they have the capacity to go for voting with

EVMs in 70 to 80 constituencies.

EVMs have been used in about 700 elections so far -- including voting in six constituencies during the 2018 election, by-elections and local government polls -- but none had raised questions or challenged them, he claimed.

The EVM issue came to the fore



especially after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at an AL meeting on May 7 said voting machines would be used in all 300 constituencies in the next national election.

The BNP and its allies have long been opposing EVM use in polls, saying the devices would allow the ruling party to "steal votes".

Recently, 19 out of 39 registered political parties have directly opposed the use of EVMs, either joining or skipping talks with the EC. Among them are the AL's archrival BNP and the main opposition in parliament, the Jatiya Party.

Twenty-eight political parties took part in talks, held on July 17-31, and 10 of them told the commission that they were against the use of EVMs. Nine parties, including the BNP and CPB, who abstained in the talks, also don't want EVMs.

Two parties sought rescheduling of the talks citing different reasons. Only three -- the ruling Awami League, Samyabadi Dal and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh -- during the dialogue categorically said they wanted the machines in the next Jatiya Sangsad election.

Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, a member of AL-led 14-party alliance, suggested that the commission use the machine in 150 constituencies.

Twelve political parties, including JSD-Inu and the Workers

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TEA WORKERS' WAGES

Many take to streets again

Block Dhaka-Sylhet highway for 2hrs

MINTU DESHWARA

Demanding a pay hike, tea plantation workers in Sylhet, Habiganj and Moulvibazar blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at least for two hours yesterday.

The protest will continue until their demand for Tk 300 daily wage is not met, said Bijoy Hazra, organising secretary of the Bangladesh Tea Workers Union (BTWU).

Hundreds of workers at 23 tea estates expressed their solidarity with the demonstration, said Aniruddha Baraik, general secretary of BTWU's Laskarpur Valley unit.

The package of Tk 145 per day has largely been refused by the workers. They vowed to continue their protest until the prime minister offers them a proper solution to the wage issue, said Kiron Suloboydo, organising secretary of the Bangladesh Tea Workers Federation.

"The tea estate managements are offering us Tk 145 per day, which is only Tk 25 higher than our current wage. We will not accept the amount," said Saroda Goala, a tea plantation worker.

"If needed, we will starve. We will not join work until our demand is met," she said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Hackers hijack satellite to broadcast movies

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Hackers have hijacked a decommissioned satellite and used it to broadcast films.

The feat was demonstrated at the Def Con hacking conference in Las Vegas over the weekend by the hacking collective Shadytel.

The group used a \$300 piece of equipment called a

Hack RF to connect with the Canadian Anik FIR satellite, which was operated by Telesat Canada before it became defunct.

With access to an abandoned uplink facility, the hackers decided to "have some fun" with the satellite, which is currently in geostationary orbit roughly 35,786km (22,236 miles) above the Earth.

"Satellites basically just reflect whatever signal is sent up to them," Shadytel member Karl Koscher said during a presentation at Def Con, first reported by Motherboard.

"If you're loud enough, and if there's another user on that transponder, you have to shout louder than them, but if there's no one there, [the satellite] will just repeat it."

The group used the Anik FIR to stream classic hacker movies like WarGames, as well as set up a

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A Ukrainian deminer examines a crater following a missile strike in the Rohan village near Kharkiv yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

ASI withdrawn for assaulting rape plaintiff

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

An assistant sub-inspector has been withdrawn from a police station in Manikganj for assaulting a man who went there to know the update on a complaint filed over attempted rape of his five-year-old daughter.

Contacted, Additional Superintendent of Police (Shivalaya Circle) Noorjahan Laboni said, "ASI Arif Hossain was withdrawn from the Shivalaya Police Station on Saturday night after the incident came to light. We will recommend departmental action against him."

Talking to this correspondent, the assaulted man said, "My wife and I live in the capital. My five-year-old daughter lives with my mother at our village home. On July 20, Razab Khan, a farmer and cousin of Shivalaya upazila Awami League unit member Mannan Khan, tried to rape my daughter. My mother is a witness to it."

"Later, local influential people were informed about it. But they didn't do anything... On August 14, I filed a complaint with Shivalaya Police Station. But police didn't take any action even though a week had gone by. On August 20 evening, I went to the police station with my mother and daughter to know the update on my complaint."

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ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

গণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়ের স্মারক নং-০৩.০০.২৬৯০.০৮২.০৪৬.০৭৬.২০২২.০৬, তারিখঃ ০২ আষাঢ়, ১৪২৯ বঙ্গাব্দ/১৬ জুন, ২০২২ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখের নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক বিশ্বব্যাপী জ্বালানীর অব্যাহত মূল্যবৃদ্ধিজনিত পরিস্থিতিতে বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী সাশ্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে রাত আটটার পর দোকান, শপিংমল, মার্কেট, বিপনী বিতান, কাঁচাবাজার বন্ধ রাখার নির্দেশনা দেয়া হয়েছে। উক্ত নির্দেশনার অনুবৃত্তিক্রমে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এখতিয়ারবীন সকল এলাকায় শৃংখলা আনয়ন এবং ঢাকা শহর পরিচালনায় সৃষ্টি ব্যবস্থাপনার লক্ষ্যে জনস্বার্থে ১৭ ভাদ্র, ১৪২৯ (০১ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২২), বৃহস্পতিবার থেকে সকল দোকান-পাট, শপিংমল, মার্কেট, বিপনী বিতান, কাঁচাবাজার, ব্যবসায়িক/বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান ও স্থাপনা, চলচ্চিত্র প্রেক্ষাগৃহ, চিত্র-বিনোদনমূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান ইত্যাদি নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে।

ধরণ	বন্ধ করার সময়
সকল দোকান-পাট, শপিংমল, মার্কেট, বিপনী বিতান, কাঁচাবাজার, ব্যবসায়িক/বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান ও স্থাপনা	রাত ৮:০০টা
সকল প্রকার রেন্টোরঃ	রাত ১০:০০টা
খাবার দোকান	রাত ১১:০০টা
চলচ্চিত্র প্রেক্ষাগৃহসহ চিত্র-বিনোদনমূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান/স্থাপনা	রাত ১১:০০টা
সাধারণ উষধের দোকান	রাত ১২:০০টা
হাসপাতালের সাথে সংযুক্ত নিজস্ব উষধের দোকান	রাত ২:০০টা

জনস্বার্থে এ গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি জারী করা হলো যা পরবর্তী সিদ্ধান্ত না দেয়া পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ
ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/৩৭/২০২২-২০২৩
টাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ক্রিডি-১৫৭৮