



Russia sent that ship knowingly

Says Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russia knowingly sent the US sanctioned ship carrying equipment for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, something that is surprising and unexpected, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.



"It is surprising that Russia knowingly sent a sanctioned ship by changing its name. We did not expect it. Now, we expect that Russia will send equipment by non-sanctioned ships," he told reporters at the foreign ministry.

Dhaka conveyed to Moscow that Bangladesh will not accept the 69 Russian ships, which are under sanctions, noting that Bangladesh has developed a good relationship with the US.

Momen said Russia has thousands

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A truck, set alight by a mob after it ran over and killed a security guard of a garment factory, is seen burning in Chandra area of Kaliakoir, Gazipur, yesterday morning. Demonstrating workers of the factory kept Dhaka-Tangail highway blocked for almost four hours demanding a foot bridge there.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

SCHOOLTEACHER RECRUITMENT

DCs want the quotas gone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the DC conference starting tomorrow, the deputy commissioners have made 245 proposals, including cancellation of quotas in the assistant teacher appointments at primary schools.

The DCs are the chief administrative and revenue officers of districts.

The Kurigram DC proposed abolishment of the quota system. He said even though there are more qualified candidates, many unqualified people get the job because of the quotas. Qualified candidates are likely to be overlooked. This could also obstruct the government from achieving the target of employment in every family.

According to the government primary schoolteacher recruitment policy for 2019, 60 percent of the vacancies are reserved for females, 20 percent for the children of current staff members and teachers, and 20 percent are reserved for males.

The Jhenidah DC proposed formulation of a policy banning politics for MPO teachers and their involvement in other profitable jobs in addition to their teaching duties.

She said this way teachers would be able to pay more attention to lessons, thereby enhancing the quality of education.

The Shariatpur DC recommended that upazila nirbahi officers be made presidents of upazila education committees instead of upazila parishad chairmen.

The Naogaon DC proposed that schools with a small number of students be closed and the students be merged with those of nearby schools. He believes that it will help reduce government spending.

The Narsingdi DC recommended the introduction of midday meals at primary schools in remote char areas, saying that it will help reduce dropouts and prevent children suffering from malnutrition.

The main issues for discussion in this year's conference

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Five die on roads, mobs torch vehicles

A university student among the dead; crashes, roadblocks trigger travel chaos on major highways

STAR REPORT

Three separate road accidents in Faridpur, Dhaka and Gazipur yesterday killed at least 5 people, causing travel chaos on key highways.

In Faridpur, a Dhaka-bound bus named Star Express hit a motorcycle near Monsurabad bus stand area in Bhanga upazila around 12:30pm, killing all 3 on the bike.

Witnesses said the motorbike was entering the Dhaka-Khulna highway from a local link road.

The deceased were identified as Mohiuddin Sheikh, 35, his brother-in-law Saurav Matubbar, 16, and his daughter Tabassum, 10.

According to locals and police, the accident took place when Mohiuddin was heading towards a relative's home at Hiyabolodia village in Nagarkanda upazila from his father-in-law's house at Majhardia village of Faridpur's Bhanga.

His daughter and brother-in-law were the pillion riders on his motorbike.

Mohiuddin and Saurav died on the spot. Tabassum died at the Bhanga upazila health complex where she was brought critically injured, said Taimur Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bhanga Highway Police Station.

Immediately after the accident, a mob set the bus on fire. However, the driver, helper and supervisor of the bus managed to flee, said a witness. A fire service unit later doused the fire.

Meanwhile, in Dhaka, a female private university student yesterday died after a bus hit a motorcycle in Bhatara.

Deceased Nadia Sultana, 19, was a first-semester student of the pharmacy department of Northern University, said Rafiqul Haque, inspector (investigation) of Bhatara Police Station.

She got admitted to the university earlier this month. She was yet to start her classes, said Mahmudul Hasan, an official at the admission section of Northern University.

Nadia was the pillion rider of

her friend's motorcycle when a Malibagh-bound bus of Victor Paribahan hit the bike near Jamuna Future Park around 12:45pm.

She was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared her dead, Rafiqul said. Police seized the bus, but the bus driver managed to flee.

ABM Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bhatara Police Station, told The Daily Star that the deceased was not wearing a helmet.

"According to his friend, they were going to Jamuna Future Park for some shopping," said the OC.

Nadia's body was handed over to her father after an autopsy performed at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue.

A case was filed in this connection.

Several hundred students of the university blockaded a portion of the road near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. They staged a demonstration for around one hour demanding punishment for the bus driver, said police.

Vehicular movement on the road became normal around 7:00pm when the students concluded their demonstration, said Kazi Shahan Haque, OC of Khilkhet Police Station.

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MYANMAR REBEL GROUPS

Help stop their fighting from spilling over

Dhaka urges Beijing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has requested Beijing to pursue Myanmar among rebel groups do not spill over into Bangladesh.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam conveyed this to the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen when the latter called on him at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Separately, he also called on Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

"There were conflicts among rebel groups on the zero line and the camp there has been burnt. We are hoping that the new Chinese ambassador, as he took charge, will work to help stop such incidents," he told journalists at the ministry.

At least two Rohingya were killed and a few others injured in clashes between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) on the zero line in Tambru near Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban last Wednesday.

Some 5,000 Rohingya refugees took shelter

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Curtains close on 21st DIFF

'Saatao' wins Best Film

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ending the nine-day celebration of films and visual arts, the curtains for the 21st Dhaka International Film Festival fell yesterday, at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka.

Organised by Rainbow Film Society, the event was also held at other venues like the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The festival went on from January 14 to January 22.

The closing ceremony was arranged at the main auditorium of the National Museum.

The special guests included Matia Chowdhury, MP and deputy leader of the House; Shahriar Alam, MP and state minister of foreign affairs; Md Humayun Kabir Khandaker, secretary of the information ministry; Md Kamruzzaman, director general of Bangladesh National Museum; Mokammel Hossain, secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry, and Kishwar Kamal, chairman of the Festival Committee. Ahmed Muztaba Zaman Shovon, DIFF director, presided over the event.

Meanwhile, screenings at other venues continued simultaneously.

This year, the festival welcomed 252 films from 71 countries under 10 categories, including the "Asian Cinema Competition Section", "Retrospective", "Wide Angle", "Tribute", "Bangladesh Panorama Section", "Cinema of the

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E-ORANGE SCAM

Ex-Banani cop jumps bail in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian police in West Bengal have enhanced security along the border with Nepal in a bid to stop suspended Bangladeshi police inspector Soheli Rana, a 'patron' of scam-hit e-commerce platform e-Orange, from escaping to the Himalayan nation, a senior police officer said last night.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Cooch Behar district Amit Verma said Rana was given bail by a court in Mekhliganj in November following his arrest in September, 2021.

Rana's was granted bail on two conditions -- he would not move out of Mekhliganj and he would report to Mekhliganj police station once a week.

According to Verma, Rana complied with the conditions for three weeks till December 30. Since then, he has not reported to the local police station.

However, Rana has maintained e-mail communications where he claimed he could not report to the police station as he was ill and needed better treatment, he added.

The ASP said they are on the lookout for Rana and has alerted the police along the border with Nepal, where his sister reportedly stays, so that he cannot flee to that country.

Verma said the court in Mekhliganj, which granted him bail, has been apprised by the police of the latest updates relating to Rana's non-appearance before the police station.

Rana, former inspector of Banani Police Station in Dhaka, was arrested by the Indian police for illegally crossing into the country on September 3, 2021.



A Rohingya family resting at a primary school near the border in Tambru area of Naikhongchhari, Bandarban. The family entered Bangladesh from a camp in the no-man's-land amid last week's violence.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

TAMBRU BORDER

Rohingyas passing days under open sky

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rohingyas driven out of their homes near Tambru border in Bandarban's Naikhongchhari upazila have been spending the last five days under the open sky in a schoolyard in Konarpara.

Last Wednesday's violence broke out between two armed Rohingya factions at the border camp, leading to one refugee being killed.

The refugees claimed that Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) were behind the violence, both of which were trying to take control of Konarpara Rohingya Camp. The camp straddles the border on the no-man's land, run by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Following the shooting which lasted over two hours, Rohingya homes in the camp were set on fire, causing several hundred Rohingyas to cross the barbed-wire fences and flee to Myanmar. The Myanmar military pushed them back in response, leading them to take refuge again in

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