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ROOPPUR PROJECT

Russia proposes payment in rouble

4th meeting of joint commission ends with no decision

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Russia has proposed a direct payment system bypassing the global standard SWIFT to settle the dues for Rooppur nuclear power plant as the Soviet nation looks to navigate the sanctions from the West following the Ukraine war.

SWIFT is the messaging system used by financial institutions globally to convey instructions to carry out tens of millions of transactions each day. Most Russian banks are banned from SWIFT, effectively cutting the nation off from the global payment network.

This has left Russia in a blind spot over its payment from Bangladesh for the \$13 billion Rooppur nuclear power plant.

The issue was discussed at length at the fourth meeting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



RUSSIA-BANGLADESH COMMISSION AGENDA

- >> Direct payment system with Russia
- >> Currency swap agreement
- >> Currency clearing scheme
- >> Facilitate wheat procurement
- Settle payment in yuan



Lawyers vandalise a marquee outside the Supreme Court Bar Association building over allegations of irregularities in the polls to the bar association yesterday.

Violence mars SCBA polls

Journos, pro-BNP lawyers hurt in police action, clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police assault on journalists and clashes between pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers marred the first day of the two-day annual Supreme Court Bar Association election vesterday.

Voting was scheduled to start at 10:00am, but utter chaos broke out as soon as pro-BNP lawyers demonstrated for the formation of an electionconducting committee by someone "acceptable".

Polling started two and half hours later and went on until 5:30pm with an half-hour interruption in the afternoon due to violence.

In the morning, at least 10 journalists and several pro-BNP lawyers were assaulted by the police.

Throughout the day, the two camps of lawyers chased each other on the Supreme Court Premises, vandalised properties, and engaged in scuffles. Police intervened several times.

Witnesses said police entered

Shaheed Shafiur Rahman Auditorium around 11:30am to make the protesting pro-BNP lawyers leave. Within moments, pro-BNP and pro-Awami League lawyers started shoving and hitting each other. Police eventually got involved.

Around 11:45am, the police attacked journalists who were taking photos and videos of the law enforcers' action on the lawyers, witnesses said.

The Law Reporters' Forum in a statement later said, "The attack was SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ROHINGYA RETURN Verification begins for first batch **Myanmar officials** now in Teknaf

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Amid mounting global pressure, a 17-member Myanmar delegation yesterday started verifying the identities of the Rohingya refugees in Teknaf, as the first group of Myanmar's displaced people is expected to be repatriated in a few months.

According to Bangladesh officials, there were some issues regarding the earlier verification process, and virtual meetings held in this regard were not enough to settle those.

"Therefore, the delegation is meeting the Rohingyas in person and verifying their names, villages, towns ... " a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The delegation, led by Rakhine's State Minister for Social Welfare Aung Mivo, includes officials from Myanmar's immigration and population ministry. It arrived in Teknaf through the Teknaf-Mangdaw Transit Jetty around 9:45am yesterday.

Officials in Teknaf said that at 11:00am, the Myanmar delegation started interviewing 70 Rohingyas of 20 families, who were taken from the Leda-Nayapara camp at Hnila union to a marquee set up in front of a rest house at the Teknaf Land Port.

Shamsuddouza Noyon, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, said the delegation will stay here for a few days to complete the verification process.

Speaking to The Daily Star, a Rohingya refugee interviewed by the delegation said, "We were enquired about our names, village, profession, about our neighbours, and more.

Since 2017, when around 750,000 Rohingyas fled a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State, there were at SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A man pulls his bicycle while his wife rides pillion holding her baby in her lap in the capital's Gulshan. The cyclist said he was aware of the risk involved but he cannot afford to hire a three-wheeler for trips any more due to the rising cost of living in the capital. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

Murder accused now a jeweller in Dubai

Shakib Al Hasan invited to open his store

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A man accused of killing a policeman in Bangladesh launched a jeweller's in Dubai

There, he goes by the name of Arav Khan, which is actually an alias of fugitive accused Rabiul Islam, said Shahidur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (Khilgaon Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Rabiul is the son of Matiur Rahman Mollah of Ashutia village in Gopalganj's Kotalipara upazila.

He also operates under aliases such as Apan, Shohag, Hridoy and Hrid, DB sources said. For the inauguration of his jeweller's, Rabiul even

went on to invite cricket superstar Shakib Al Hasan to cut the ribbon. Shakib yesterday went to Gold Souk in Dubai to

join the inauguration but returned to hotel seeing mismanagement, said witnesses. The Daily Star reached out to him for comments but

did not get a reply. The DB on April 11, 2019, pressed charges against



Rabiul Islam

Rabiul and nine others in the murder case of Mamun Emran Khan, then inspector of the Special Branch of police, said ADC Shahidur.

Mamun was killed inside a flat in the capital's Banani on July 7, 2018.

Soon after the murder, Rabiul fled to India. He later hired one Md Abu Yusuf to surrender under his name and address. Abu Yusuf had been behind bars for nine months in the case.

In 2020, Rabiul managed to have an Indian passport. The Daily Star has obtained an unverified copy of his Indian passport, No-U 4985389.

In the passport issued from Kolkata on July 28. 2020, Rabiul's name is mentioned as Arav Khan, son of Jakir Khan and Rehana Bibi Khan. The spouse's name is said to be Sajeema Nasrin.

As per the Indian passport, Arav was born on July 31, 1993, in Nerendrapur, West Bengal. The passport will expire on July 27, 2030.

A man close to Aray confirmed this newspaper that they refer to him as Apan Arav, and that he was born in Kotalipara of Gopalganj. The man also said Arav was accused in a case in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Patients to get free insulin at community clinics: PM

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government will provide free insulin to diabetic patients through community clinics.

She said this while

addressing the second graduation completion programme of Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Muiib Memorial KPJ Specialised Hospital and Nursing College.

"We have decided that we will include insulin in the list of free medicines of the community clinics across the country for the diabetic patients," she said. Currently,

government is providing 30 types of medicines free of cost through the community clinics.

"We will give away insulin free of cost so that the diabetic patients could get relief," she added.

Healthcare President Norhaizam Binti Mohammad was the speaker of the graduation ceremony. PM

The handed over certificates to 210 nurses and the prime minister's award among six graduating nurses for their outstanding results in their respective sessions. documentary on

Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital and Nursing College was screened during the programme.

The prime minister also inaugurated Website, Management Hospital and Medical Software Journal of the hospital.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

