

'Perfect cover' for crime

Masked criminals capitalising on pandemic situation as cops fail to identify them on CCTV

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With wearing masks in public becoming compulsory to prevent the spread of Covid-19, criminals are also utilising the situation making it difficult for the law enforcers to identify them through CCTV footage.

"Perpetrators often change their tactics, depending on the situation," said Krishna Pada Roy, additional commissioner (Crime) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He said the numbers of incidents where criminals used masks are not too high yet. "We have already detected and arrested those involved in crimes using masks as a shield at the primary stages of the pandemic," he told The Daily Star recently.

The additional commissioner said to stop crime, they are conducting field-level investigation and gleaning information from previously-arrested criminals.

Masked criminals, however, continue to commit crimes across the capital.

Last month, three people shot jhut (garment waste) trader Sattar Matubbor in Rupnagar while he was walking in front of his house.

Sattar is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Abul Bashar Mohammad Asaduzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Rupnagar Police Station, said they are investigating into the case but were yet to get any clue. Police could not trace the attackers as they were wearing masks, he said.

On May 3, criminals looted medical products worth around Tk 3 lakh, breaking the shutter of a medical shop at Mirhazariabagh of Jatrabari.

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A man presses a pedal to avail a glass of water, from a tank kept in front of Mugda General Hospital. Amra Bondhu and Bangladesh Chhatra Union have set up the free-to-drink water filter next to a tea stall to serve people coming there for Covid-19 test, many of who have to wait long hours under the sun. The improvised foot pedal contraption and disposable glasses help avert the risk of virus transmission.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

REPEALING CLAUSES OF RPO Shujan terms EC's decision 'suicidal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik yesterday expressed concern over the Election Commission's steps to formulate a separate law for political parties' registration with the commission, after repealing some clauses from the Representation of the People's Order-1972.

In a statement, Shujan said such decision by the statutory body could be "suicidal".

Shujan, a good governance campaigner, held a virtual press conference to address its stand on the EC's step, said the release.

Its Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said as an independent body, the EC is accountable to the countrymen but to not any political party.

"Whether formulating the [new] law is for public interest or political parties' interest remains a big question," he said.

If political parties are the priority, then the goal should be to democratise them, he added.

Criticising the EC's activities, eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik said the EC has emerged as a "great obstacle" for the nation's progress.

Reading out a keynote paper, Shujan

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No more doubts on food testing: Taposh

Modern lab inaugurated to test adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said that those who sell adulterated food and later raise questions about the quality of testing, will no longer be able to so as DSCC has built a modern food testing laboratory.

Addressing the inaugural programme of the lab at Dhaka's Bongobazar, Taposh said earlier when the government would impose fine against a company for selling adulterated food, the company would go to court raising questions about food testing quality and many such cases are still pending.

"From now those companies will not get any scope for this, as the lab has all modern testing facilities and it is an internationally accredited lab," he said.

Mayor said they will be able to conduct quality testing of any food in the lab.

This lab has been constructed under a project named "Urban public and environmental health sector development" financed by Asian Development Bank.

Local government division is supervising



The DSCC mayor inaugurates the new facility in the capital.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

the project where seven laboratories at seven city corporations are being constructed.

While delivering his speech as chief guest, LGRD Minister Tajul Islam said this lab is modern like European facilities and it will ensure quality food for residents of the city.

He said according to medical science, when a person who has a good immunity, diseases cannot get them easily.

"And this immunity depends on nutrition," he said.

An offer he couldn't refuse

CID arrests three foreigners over swindling man of Tk 23 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It really was an offer that Ariful Islam Foysal could not refuse!

A few months ago, he met a woman named "Genitari" on social media. She said she was from America. They hit it off right away and became good friends.

One day, she offered to send him some gifts. Those were very "expensive" and a token of their friendship, she said. Genitari also informed that she will send those through a diplomatic courier agent.

Soon, an "agent" contacted Foisal and said he needed to pay money to release it.

At first, Foisal was skeptical. But Genitari informed him that the gift was just the beginning. Soon he will have a chance to visit her in the US and eventually she can facilitate his citizenship process.

Needless to say, Foisal was over the moon. He did not hesitate afterwards. Whenever the courier service person called for money to release the goods, he complied.

By the time Ariful figured out that he was being duped, the miscreants had embezzled Tk 22.68 lakh from him in phases.

The above came to light after the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday claimed to have arrested three foreign nationals from the capital's Bashundhara area, who allegedly worked for the fraudulent gang.

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Tributes keep pouring in for Latifur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tributes continued to pour in yesterday for founding chairman and CEO of Transcom Group Latifur Rahman, who breathed his last on Wednesday morning.

Mourners in their messages said people should emulate Rahman, who was honest and patriotic, and set examples of highest standards of integrity while doing business.

They also sought eternal peace of the departed soul, and extended their condolences to bereaved family members.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon in his message said Rahman set an example by running his businesses, practising exemplary standards of ethics. He also gave his businesses honest leadership, at a time when Bangladesh has turned into a haven for businessmen who are loan and tax defaulters, Menon said, adding that he will be remembered as symbol for his honesty, integrity and courage.

Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BGCCI) President



Omar Sadat said no words can express how sorry they are about the loss of the iconic businessman.

His departure is an irreplaceable damage for this country, Sadat said.

"We have always had the highest regards for him as an accomplished businessman.

To us, he was an example of successful leadership and a great organiser. He was a refined gentleman and always treated everyone with honour and respect".

"We have always admired Mr Latifur Rahman's contributions to the community. We will always appreciate his undoubtable leadership, his energy and his positive attitude towards the development of Bangladesh's economy".

Civil body platform Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) President Hafiz Uddin Khan and Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar in their message paid tribute to Rahman, terming him an honest, successful and renowned businessman.

Ganasamhati Andolon chief coordinator Zonayed Saki and acting executive coordinator Abul Hasan Rubel in

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BNP slams fin minister for leaving the country

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday formally turned down the national budget for 2020-21 fiscal year, saying it is "unimplementable" during this time of Covid-19 pandemic.

"The budget is not implementable in any way. They [government] didn't say specially from where they would collect so much revenue. They couldn't even reach 50 percent of their revenue target last year," said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

Speaking at a virtual press conference, he also said the budget has not been a time-befitting one while country grapples with coronavirus pandemic.

"This budget is not acceptable in any way as they formulated it in a prototype bureaucrat format. So, we turn down this budget with hatred," said Fakhru.

Earlier on Tuesday, parliament passed the Tk 568,000 crore national budget for the fiscal year 2020-21. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on June 11 placed the budget to attain an ambitious 8.2 percent GDP, which has been revised to 5.2 percent.

Fakhru slammed the finance minister for going to London for treatment

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'They're not just offenders, but victims as well'

Speakers tell discussion on youths dragged into militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both the affluent and marginalised can be vulnerable to involvement in terrorism as terrorists do not pursue violence simply based on ideology, according to a study.

"We found two groups -- affluent and marginalised -- vulnerable to terrorism," said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He shared the findings at a pre-launch event of a book titled "Terrorism in Bangladesh: The Process of Radicalization

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A protester points her empty plate at the camera, symbolising the starvation she has been subjected to as she and her fellow workers of Paradise Cables Ltd have been deprived of salaries for thirteen months. Demanding the arrears, the workers' union staged a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

রঞ্জানীমুখী তৈরী পোশাক শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান মাল্টিফ্যাবস লিমিটেডের, মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, আলহাজ্ব জনাব মহিউদ্দিন ফারুকী গত ০১ জুলাই ২০২০ ইং তারিখ রোজ বুধবার বেলা ১১:০০ ঘটিকায় সিঙ্গাপুর মাউন্ট এলিজাবেথ হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইলালিপুরিহা ওয়া ইল্লা ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

আলহাজ্ব জনাব মহিউদ্দিন ফারুকীর পারিবারিক ও কর্মময়জীবনঃ

আলহাজ্ব জনাব মহিউদ্দিন ফারুকী ১৯৪৬ সনের ০৭ জুলাই রোজ রবিবার পিরোজপুর সদর উপজেলার ৭নং শংকর পাশা ইউনিয়নের নামাজপুর গ্রামে এক সম্মত মুসলিম পরিবারে জন্ম গ্রহণ করেন। তাঁর পিতা মরহুম খবির উদ্দিন হাওলাদার, মাতা মরহুমা মতিজান বিবি। জনাব মহিউদ্দিন ফারুকী ছাত্র জীবনে অত্যন্ত মেধাবী ছিলেন। তিনি ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে উচ্চতর ডিগ্রি অর্জন করে জনতা ব্যাংকে সিনিয়র অফিসার হিসেবে কর্ম জীবন শুরু করেন এবং অত্যন্ত সুনামের সাথে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক হিসেবে ২০০৩ সনে অবসর গ্রহণ করেন। তিনি ২০০৩ সন থেকে জীবনের শেষ দিন পর্যন্ত দেশের শীর্ষ স্থানীয় শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান মাল্টিফ্যাবস লিমিটেডে চেয়ারম্যান ও ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। পেশাগত জীবনে সর্বশেষ রূপালী ব্যাংকের গভর্নিং বোর্ডের পরিচালক হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছেন। এ ছাড়াও তিনি বি.কে.এম.ই.এ এর সহ-সভাপতি হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করেন। জনাব মহিউদ্দিন ফারুকী দেশের বেসরকারী খাতে শিল্প স্থাপন, কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি এবং জাতীয় আয় বৃদ্ধি সহ সামগ্রিক ভাবে জাতীয় অর্থনীতিতে অবদান রাখার দরুন ২০০৪-২০০৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দে রঞ্জানীতে বর্ষ পদক অর্জন করেন। তাঁর বর্ণাঢ্য কর্মজীবনে মৃত্যুর আগ পর্যন্ত বাণিজ্যিকভাবে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ব্যক্তি (সিআইপি) মর্যাদা প্রাপ্ত ছিলেন।

আলহাজ্ব জনাব মহিউদ্দিন ফারুকী একজন আদর্শবান, সমাজ সেবক ও দানশীল ব্যক্তি ছিলেন। তিনি সিএসআর কার্যক্রমের মাধ্যমে প্রতিষ্ঠানের শ্রমিকসহ সমাজের প্রবীণ দুঃখী মানুষের জন্য আর্থিক সহায়তা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করেন। তিনি দেশের শিক্ষা বিস্তারে অনেক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান ও ধর্মীয় কাজে মসজিদ, মদ্রাসা ও এতিমখানা এবং পিরোজপুর জাতীয় মসজিদ পুনঃ প্রতিষ্ঠা করেন। মৃত্যু কালে তিনি স্বী ও তিন সন্তান, জনাব মেসবা ফারুকী, জনাব ইমরান ফারুকী ও জনাব সালমান ফারুকী, এক নাতী ও অসংখ্য গুনগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন।

BRTA allows another 1,890 ridesharing vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has decided to allow another 1,890 cars, minibuses, and ambulances affiliated with various ridesharing services to resume operations, said a BRTA circular issued on Wednesday.

The announcement came after the vehicles got enlisted under BRTA, the new requirement for ridesharing vehicles set by the regulatory body.

"The number of vehicles taking enlistment certificate is increasing gradually. This is a positive sign," Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Initially, BRTA had allowed only 255 vehicles to resume ridesharing services, which remained suspended till June 21.

However, the regulator maintains a ban on the operation of motorcycles due to the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus.

According to a BRTA

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আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

বাংলাদেশের অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রযাত্রার উজ্জ্বল সহযাত্রী, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, ট্রাণ্সকম গ্রুপের চেয়ারম্যান

লতিফুর রহমান

ঐর মৃত্যুতে পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী গভীরভাবে মর্মাহত ও শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহতায়ালায় কাছে মরহমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং মরহমের শোক সম্ভ্রু পরিবার পরিজনদের প্রতি সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

মরহুম লতিফুর রহমানের পিতা মরহুম খান বাহাদুর মুজিবুর রহমান পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড (তৎকালীন দি ইস্টার্ন মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড) এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা পরিচালক ছিলেন। তাঁর প্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রতিষ্ঠান ট্রাণ্সকম লিঃ এর প্রতিনিধি দীর্ঘদিন পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য ছিলেন।

মহান আল্লাহতায়ালা যেন তাঁর পরিবার পরিজনকে এই অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি সহ্য করার ক্ষমতা দান করেন।

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