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SECOND EDITION



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PREVENTING CYBER-ATTACKS

Most banks ill-prepared

Only 4 out of 60 banks set up security solution in about 5 years as per central bank directive

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN and SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Only four of the 60 banks in the country have set up cyber security operation centres in line with a Bangladesh Bank directive to thwart large-scale cyber-attacks.

In the absence of an effective cyber security system in most banks, the country's banking sector remains vulnerable to cyber criminals even about five years after the \$101 million cyber heist from the BB's account with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

Though the central bank in its 2016 directive specified an IT security solution for all banks with an investment of Tk 2-5 crore each, most of the banks either went for partial-fix or no-fix at all.

Dependence on digital banking tools has been growing fast in recent months as many now do online banking from home instead of going to banks amid the Covid pandemic.

"This has created more cyber risks to the banking system than ever," said Tanvir Hassan Zoha, an IT expert and an assistant professor at Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.

Following the cyber heist in February, 2016, the BB on March 3 the same year asked all banks to immediately set up IT security solution system, namely cyber "security operation centre" (SOC).

But banks are persistently ignoring the instruction to set up SOC as they seem uninterested in investing additional funds, putting the entire banking system at risk, Zoha said.

Contacted, Debdulal Roy, an executive director of the central bank, said only four of the 60 banks in the country have been able to set up SOC.

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With hardly any space between them, people queue up to get tested for coronavirus infection at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital in the capital yesterday. Inset, Mugga Medical College Hospital had to stop testing as its testing machine broke down at a time when Covid-19 infections and deaths are on the rise.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON/ANISUR RAHMAN

Fresh crisis over Covid testing

A few PCR machines out of order; experts stress the need for more tests

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A few RT-PCR machines, used for Covid-19 testing, remained out of order at a time when coronavirus cases are on the rise with the advent of winter.

Experts said the number of daily tests was already low compared to the country's population and such developments would only aggravate the situation.

Government officials said 172 hospitals have 177 RT-PCR machines across the country. Of them, four to five were out of order. The officials, however, claimed that it did not make any difference since samples meant to be tested with those machines were being sent to labs elsewhere.

The RT-PCR machine at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital was out of order for three

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'We're beaten mercilessly'

Garment workers, madrasa teachers staging sit-ins in front of Press Club allege police brutality at dawn; officers deny excesses



An A One BD Ltd employee in tears after she was truncheon charged and forced to move from in front of Jatiya Press Club early yesterday by police. Her son was injured too. They were staging a sit in there.

NILIMA JAHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

PHOTO COURTESY: HIMU

Until Sunday night, the sidewalks in front of the Jatiya Press Club were teeming with protesters pressing their demands for various causes, but since yesterday morning the area has been deserted.

Around 42 former Tazreen Fashions workers, more than 300 workers of A One BD Ltd, a few hundred independent Ebtedayee madrasa teachers, and aspiring primary school assistant teachers had been staging sit-ins there.

Yesterday at dawn however, according to the workers and teachers, police swooped on the demonstrators and attacked them with batons, tear gas shells and water cannons while they were asleep. Around 54 of the workers and teachers were injured in the attack, they said.

"They beat us like animals," said Nasima Akter, one of the Tazreen Fashions workers, who had been in front of the press club for the last 80 days demanding proper compensation, rehabilitation and treatment for their injuries sustained during the fire at the garment factory on November 24, 2012.

"On Saturday night, we were asked by police to leave the place by 4:00pm the following day. But as we weren't willing to leave empty-handed, they took preparations on Sunday night [arranging water cannons to disperse them]," Nasima told this newspaper.

"Around 4:30am, we dozed off, thinking they won't do anything... Then they started beating us severely, shot tear gas shells and used water cannons," she added.

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Govt to revise textbook curriculum

Says secretary after cabinet meeting; muktijoddha council bill approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is aiming to revise textbook curriculum and create technologically sound manpower to survive the upcoming fourth industrial revolution that will be driven by technology.

To cope with the industrial revolution, the government will introduce some schemes in the financial system to encourage small and medium entrepreneurs to adopt the new technology, said Khandker Anwarul Islam, cabinet secretary, at a press briefing at the secretariat yesterday.

In the meeting, a proposal was given to form a taskforce to find the way to deal with the fourth industrial revolution.

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2 Hefajat leaders sued for sedition

Another leader of Islami Andolon also accused; court ask PBI to probe charges, submit reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat chief Junayed Babunagari and two other islamist leaders were accused in two cases of sedition yesterday.

Hefajat-e-Islam Joint Secretary General Maulana Mamunul Haque and Islami Andolon Bangladesh Senior Nayeb-e-Amir Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim are the other accused.

One of the cases was filed by Muktijuddho Moncho President Aminul Islam Bulbul with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Satyabrata Sikder.

Bangabandhu Foundation founder Moshirur Malek filed the other case against Mamunul with the same court.

The magistrate took the cases into cognisance and recorded statements of the complainants.

The court directed the Deputy Inspector General of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the cases and submit two separate reports to it by January 7.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary and Minister for Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader yesterday said those who have shown the audacity to attack the sculpture of the Father of the Nation must face grave consequences.

Bangabandhu's sculpture will be constructed, he added.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

Ensure security of Bangabandhu monuments

HC orders government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government to immediately take necessary steps to ensure protection of all monuments and murals of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman across the country.

It also ordered the government to establish Bangabandhu's murals on the office premises of all deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers and to submit a report before the court on the progress of setting up the murals in a month.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice Shahed Nuruddin came up with the order while hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Bashir Ahmed in November 2017 seeking necessary directives on this issue.

Earlier in the day, the cabinet secretary submitted a compliance report to the bench through Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar, saying that the government has established Bangabandhu's murals on the office

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

8 killed as bus hits 2 auto-rickshaws

STAR REPORT

Eight people, including a child, were killed as a BRTC bus collided head-on with two auto-rickshaws on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila yesterday.



mother Samirun Begum, 30, Halima Begum, 26, Antar Miah, 21, Liza Akhter, 20, and Kitab Ali, 32. The identities of the two others could not be confirmed until last night.

On information, police and firefighters rushed to the spot and joined the rescue operation with some locals.

The injured were sent to two hospitals in Sylhet and Habiganj. Two of them were in critical condition, said fire service officials.

Angered by the accident, locals blocked the highway in Shataihai area for over two hours, halting movement of traffic, said OC Ershadul.

[Our correspondents in Brahmanbaria and Moulvibazar contributed to this report.]

Ershadul Haque Bhuiyan, OC of Sherpur Highway Police Station, said a Sylhet-bound BRTC bus from Cumilla rammed into the CNG-run three-wheelers in Fultali Bazar area around 5:00pm, leaving the eight dead on the spot.

Twelve passengers of the bus were also injured as the vehicle skidded off the highway into a field, said OC added.

Among the dead are Maria Akhter, 2, and her

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