

DNC planning to buy phone trackers

Setting up digital forensic lab for increased vigilance

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With an aim to detect narcotics rings and the masterminds behind it, the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has proposed to buy a mobile tracker system.

The anti-narcotics authority has also taken steps to set up a digital forensic centre so that they can check the history of a digital device used by narcotics dealers or traders.

Confirming the development, Md Meheddi Hasan, assistant director (AD) of DNC, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have already started work to set up a digital forensic centre and buy mobile tracker system to intensify anti-narcotics operation.

The director general (DG) of DNC has already given his approval a day back to formed a committee to work into the issue, according to officials of DNC.

The committee will be formed with representatives from the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, home ministry, post and telecommunication ministry, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), they said.

According to sources, DNC DG Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar in a letter proposed to buy the digital mobile tracker for the agency.

The letter addressing the secretary of BTRC reads that DNC has already got approval from the home ministry for lawful interception facility. However, the agency is failing to conduct successful drives in absence of a mobile tracker.

It often became difficult to trace the position of a narcotics trader without a tracker, reads the letter send by DG DNC.

DG Jabbar further mentioned that if an approval can be given to buy tracker for the agency then it would be easier to bring the mastermind of narcotics trade to book.

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Finding no other way to fight the winter chills, many often come to lie down under the sun's warmth at the capital's Eidgah, beside the High Court. People in need of blankets, sweaters and roofs above their heads suffer the most when the temperature drops. This photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

REPAIR OF ROADS Won't clear bills if not finished on time: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday asked the engineering section and contractors to take necessary steps to finish all development works timely.

Addressing a board meeting yesterday the mayor said repair work of roads, footpaths and drains was not completed timely and is going under uncertainty.

Asking contractors and engineers to take necessary steps to finish all the work timely, the mayor said they will not extend any more time for the job and they will not pay any bill to the contractors if they fail to finish their job in time.

"The contractors who will finish their work in scheduled time will get their bill, otherwise they will not," he added.

It is important to finish all the pending work timely so that they can start new development work, the mayor said.

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New political party will be launched soon: Ex-VP Nur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new political party, Gono Adhikar Parishad, will officially be launched soon, said former Ducusu VP Nurul Haque Nur yesterday afternoon.



He said this during a rally at Dhaka's Paltan intersection, organised by Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, marking one year of the attack on Nur at Ducusu building.

"We are working to form a new political party amid persecution... our party, Gono Adhikar Parishad, will be launched soon," he said.

A black-flag procession started from Central Shaheed Minar. Activists of the parishad blockaded Paltan intersection for around half an hour in the afternoon.

500 NGOs, civil society orgs name new platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform -- comprising of development organisations and civil society groups -- is a positive initiative indeed to achieve Bangladesh's SDG 2030 targets, says Dr Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister.

He said this newly formed platform will have in-depth research to find solutions for hunger, poverty and lack of education.

"It will then help build successful advocacy," he made these remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a virtual event organised to announce the formation of a greater platform of NGOs and civil society organisations of Bangladesh.

Leaders of over 500 NGOs and civil society organisations joined the virtual event chaired by Rasheda K Chowdhury, chairperson, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), and moderated by BRAC's senior director KAM Morshed.

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Dr Rizvi said NGOs have immense contribution in the development of Bangladesh and the citizen groups have been actively engaged in their role since the birth of Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh must be able to deal with these challenges more efficiently, while it advances towards graduating to a middle income country. We should now reach the disadvantaged and deprived communities with services on priority basis," he added.

The event was organised yesterday with NGO Affairs Bureau director-general Md Rashadul Islam and eminent economist Professor Wahid Uddin Mahmud present as special guests.

At the virtual programme, the organisers focused on the mission, objectives and next steps of the newly founded platform. They also announced that Brac will be its secretariat for first two years.

GRAFT CASE

Former Teknaf UZ chairman denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to former chairman of Teknaf upazila Zafar Ahmed in a corruption case involving Tk 4.9 crore.

The HC also directed Zafar to surrender to the lower court concerned in two weeks in connection with the case.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohail came up with the order after hearing a petition filed by Zafar recently, seeking anticipatory bail.

He appeared before the HC bench for bail yesterday.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Double Mooring Police Station in Chattogram on April 1, 2019 against him on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 4.9 crore, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told The Daily Star.

AN ALLIANCE SET IN STONE

New Liberation War sculpture in Sitakunda 'Mrityunjoyee Mitra'



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The sculpture is installed on the terrace of Chandranath hill, the spot where martyrs from the Indian allied forces were cremated after the battle to liberate Sitakunda.

ARUN BIKASH DEB, Ctg

The Chattogram Zila Parishad has installed a new sculpture in Sitakunda as a tribute to martyred Freedom Fighters and members of Indian allied forces.

The sculpture, named Mrityunjoyee Mitra, commemorates a front battle against the Pakistan army that took place in Sitakunda between December 12 and December 16 of 1971, during the Liberation War.

Located in the terrace of Sitakunda's Chandranath hill, the sculpture was inaugurated this Monday by Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Public Works Engr Mosharrar Hossain.

"Over 55 members of Indian friendly forces and over a hundred Freedom Fighters embraced martyrdom in the battle to free Sitakunda," Lawmaker from Sitakunda's Chattogram-4 Didarul Alam said.

"The martyred Indian fighters were cremated at the terrace of Chandranath hill. It's fitting that the zila parishad decided to found a tributary sculpture here," he added.

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Govt misleading people in name of dev: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is misleading the country's people in the name of development.

"The government is saying that it has implemented a huge development and it is a role model of development. But UNDP in its recent report on Human Development Index found Bangladesh in the fifth position in South Asia, which is even below Bhutan," said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Addressing a press conference at party chairperson's Gulshan office, the BNP leader said, "The report indicates that the government is trying to mislead people in the name of development. The main target of such propaganda is to stay in power."

Fakhrul said the incumbent government has destroyed all the spirits of the independence. The government has politicised the country's judiciary and economy, and turned

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'SCAMMING JOBSEEKERS' Five fraudsters held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested five members of a fraud gang from Dhaka's Kamalapur area on charge of deceiving people, luring them with jobs.

They are: Ashraful Islam Babu (39), Abdul Karim (60), Fazlur Rahman (44), Shamsul Alam Majumder (50) and Shirina Akter (30).

A team of detectives made the arrest from a house on Monday evening, hours after a victim filed a case with Uttara Paschim Police Station in this regard, said Badruzzaman Zillu, additional deputy commissioner (DB, Uttara division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The gang used to rent offices in different areas in the capital and published job circulars in newspapers to attract

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'They killed one to frame another'

CID says 2 arrestees shot Gopalganj UP member to put blame on local chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two accused arrested by CID on Monday in connection with the killing of UP member Hamidul Sharif in Gopalganj on December 12 murdered him as part of their plan to frame the local chairman, with whom one of them had previous enmity.

The Criminal Investigation Department revealed the information at a press briefing at its headquarters in the capital's Malibagh yesterday.

Hamidul (45), a member of Ward-7 of Gopinathpur Union Parishad, was shot dead on December 12 by masked miscreants.

The arrestees are -- prime accused Amir Molla (35), Robiul Sharif (57) and Sagar (35).

At yesterday's briefing, Imam Hossain, deputy inspector general of CID, said, "Amir and Robiul shot Hamidul to frame local chairman Lacchu Sharif."

"A few days back, Hamidul expressed his mistrust on Lacchu. Robiul

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This might seem like a graceful scene, but these open-bill storks -- locally known as Shamuk Khol -- are in motion out of desperation. The severity of cold during Poush has driven them to come flock at Bakshirchar village of Chandpasha union. This photo was taken on Sunday from Barishal's Babuganj upazila, of which Bakshirchar village is a part.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Sylhet at a standstill

72-hour transport strike enforced by stone traders to resume extraction begins in division

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Road communication of Sylhet division with the rest of the country remained suspended since yesterday following a 72-hour transport strike.

"Greater Sylhet Stone-related Traders and Workers Union" in association with transport workers reportedly enforced the strike at 6am with a demand to resume stone extraction.

They also assured of following environment-friendly manual methods if the district administration allowed them to begin the extraction.

Environmentalists, however, warned that the stone workers never followed environment-friendly methods to extract stones and will not do so even if permission is given again.

Meanwhile, people of the division continued to suffer as no vehicles left or entered Sylhet as transport workers blocked all the access points since yesterday morning. The strike is being observed in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj. Sunamganj district's transport workers did not join the strike.

Saikat Das, a private job holder of Madina Market area in the city's Zindabazar, said finding no other alternatives, many like him had to walk to work. "Even rickshaws were hard to find due to the demand."

Extracting stones from different quarries

and nearby sites using heavy machineries had become a serious environmental concern over the decade, and finally the administration managed to control the situation this year in four upazilas (Companiganj, Gowainghat, Jaintiapur and Kanaighat) of Sylhet.

In 2010, the High Court issued an order to stop use of machineries for extraction following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

But stone traders continued to use illegal means while extracting stones.

At least 76 workers died in the pits from January 23, 2017 to January 20 this year, according to media reports.

Till this February 10, several HC and government orders were issued to stop stone extraction and during the first months of coronavirus pandemic, the administration started enforcing laws in this regard.

The Bureau of Mining Development also stopped leasing out quarries.

Abdul Jalil, convener of the union that called the strike, said, "There are around 15 lakh seasonal stone workers who work in the quarries during the season -- from December to March. Moreover, there are thousands of transport and stone-crusher workers. We are demanding that the authorities ensure livelihood of these people."

"We urged the administration to give us

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