

DMP mulling police box-service centres under city flyovers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ensure shelter for traffic police, ease their sufferings, and help citizens, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) wants to set up traffic police boxes and citizen service centres at unused areas under flyovers.

DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam raised the proposal while inaugurating such a structure, which functions as both the police box and service centre, at Shantinagar intersection yesterday.

He said traffic police are the first to respond to any kind of accident or crime on the road, and they take necessary steps to send victims to hospital along with providing first-aid.

“But they have no place to take shelter during storms, including natural disasters. Officers also suffer from various diseases, including kidney disease, as they do not have access to toilets,” he said.

Considering these, such police boxes and service centres can be set up at unused places under flyovers, after consulting with the city corporation, he added.

It was learned that the proposed structures will house first-aid box, fire extinguisher, stretcher, potable water and other equipment.

The facility inaugurated at Shantinagar is under Motijheel Traffic Division. Some 19 other police boxes-cum-service centres will be set up at different intersections under the division in phases to help city dwellers maintain traffic rules and provide humanitarian assistance.

Citizens injured on the road will get necessary first-aid at the facility, Wahidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner of the division, told The Daily Star.



On December 8, Department of Environment knocked down brick kilns inside the coastal reserve forest at Chattogram city's Uttar Kattoli along the Bay of Bengal. But just after two weeks, the stacks of bricks were back, and a new kiln was being built at the same location. Earlier, the High Court directed authorities to act against the kiln owners, and robust drives were conducted to stop this rampant practice. But this scene begs the question, are the steps being taken enough? These photos were taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

RECONSTRUCTION OF DU's TSC
Authorities solicit opinions from students, teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The office of the chief engineer of Dhaka University (DU) has sought recommendations and opinions from all current teachers and students of the university, on the development and extension of the DU Teacher-Student Centre (TSC).

The acting chief engineer of DU Abul Kalam Sikder asked for the recommendations in a letter on Thursday sent to all faculty deans and institute directors, requesting them to distribute the letter among all students and teachers.

The letter was attached with a Google form link which they were asked to submit by January 2, 2021.

The letter said the development and extension work of TSC was undertaken with the instruction of DU alumni Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

“We will submit the recommendations and expectations to the Public Works Department (PWD) of the government – who will operate the development work,” Abul Kalam Sikder told the Daily Star.

TSC is the work of legendary Greek architect and planner Constantinos Apostolos Doxiadis.

The mastermind behind planning the city of Islamabad, Doxiadis was also the founder of Ekistics, a school of thought that concerns the science of human settlements, including regional, city, community planning and dwelling design. He designed TSC in the early 1960s.

PWD ordered the authorities concerned to modernise Dhaka Medical College Hospital, TSC, and public library on September 2. The decision to bulldoze TSC and replace it with a multi-storied structure drew criticism students, alumni, and residents of Dhaka ahead of the Dhaka University's birth centenary in 2021.

The latest move from the authorities appear to be a response to the criticism that have been sparked, largely on social media.

Govt indulged in graft over procuring vaccine: Fakhrul

UNB, Thakurgaon

Slamming the government for not making its Covid-19 vaccine policy clear to citizens, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government has indulged in graft over vaccine collection.

“The government has not given up its habit of corruption and theft... It's doing it even over the corona vaccine,” he said.

Talking to reporters at his Thakurgaon residence, the BNP leader said the health directorate has been involved in graft since the beginning of the outbreak.

“The owner of Regent Hospital is currently being punished for corruption over corona testing. But the secretary who made the agreement with Regent was not held accountable,” he observed.

He said accountability of the government cannot be ensured when no one can ask any question about corruption in parliament.

Fakhrul said when governments all over the world are discussing how and among whom they will distribute the vaccine, the “regime” in Bangladesh has so far not been able to clearly say anything about it.

About their party's participation in the recent election, he said they are joining the polls despite adversities to reach people and talk to them.

“It's not just us, people all over Bangladesh know very well that the national election was supposed to be held on December 30, 2018, but it took place on the night of December 29. Awami League indulged in vote robbery, using the entire state machinery that day,” he alleged.

Reach out to more people through art

Says Vikram Doraiswami

UNB, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami yesterday laid emphasis on an increased collaboration between Bangladeshi and Indian young artists to put together new ideas of art and reach out to more people through art.

“I think through art, we hope to be able to reach out to many more people,” the High Commissioner said, highly appreciating works of Bangladeshi artists.

Vikram Doraiswami, accompanied by his wife Sangeeta Doraiswami, made the remarks while visiting the ongoing two-month long group art exhibition titled “Sheikh Hasina: On the Right Side of History” featuring 21 artists at Cosmos Centre in the capital. Deputy Managing Director of Cosmos Group Masud Jamil Khan was, among others, present.

The exhibition will remain open till February 12, 2021 at Cosmos Centre. However, it will only admit 20 visitors at a time.

Live music's return marked by caution

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Small concerts and recreational events are an essential part of Dhaka life for many city dwellers. But as the pandemic hit and the world went into a standstill, such live performances also came to a halt.

However, after a long break, shows are slowly coming back, to the delight of performers and attendees alike. But an air of caution hangs over the scene, and rightfully so.

Banani's L'esspresso Coffee recently hosted the premiere of singer Zarfir Kabir's music video, “Ekti Golpo”. The event also featured performances from numerous artistes, such as Sreyoshi Sehereen Sattar, Venessa Kaiser, Oishe Ahmed, Sadman Saad and the band DOOB.

“It was difficult to get the public's attention at first, but it eventually worked out. We promoted the event mainly through social media,” shares Zarfir Kabir. “The experience was amazing, we didn't expect such a big crowd and it was overwhelming.”

The premises of the cafe was cleaned out and sanitised thoroughly before the show. “Masks were mandatory for the performers and the audience,” adds Zarfir. “At this stage of the pandemic, we must adapt and take as many precautions as possible.”

“The crowd was amazing. It was evident that people needed an outing after all these months of isolation,” shares Mumtahina Mehrazbin, another performer at the event.

“The audience loved being there, it brought back some sort of normalcy in a way,” adds singer



Folk singer Sagar Baul performing at an online music show Dhaka Sessions, organised by Bookworm Bangladesh. Some performance venues are reopening after an extended period of closure, but not without all the standard health safety measures.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

MAN MUGGED OF 17 GOLD BARS

‘Younger brother staged it’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

On December 22, two brothers were mugged of 17 gold bars in Rajshahi city.

The incident took place in the morning, when Dwijen Dhar (50) and Jiten Dhar (48) were taking the gold to a jewellery shop for selling. Four people in two motorbikes waylaid them and took away the bag.

It happened too quick and smooth as if the muggers knew when and where to intercept the brothers.

Yesterday, four days into the incident, police found out that the mugging was staged by Jiten to pay off his debts.

Law enforcers arrested him from Puthia upazila with 16 of the mugged gold bars.

“He managed to sell one bar,” said Golam Ruhul Kuddus, ADC of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

The official said Dwijen of Feni bought 17 gold bars, worth Tk 1.13 crore, from two jewelry shops in the district and brought those to his brother Jiten's house in

Rajshahi's Puthia on December 21.

The next day while they were walking from Bhadra Bus Stop to the city, they got mugged by the four people on two motorcycles. They identified themselves as “men of the administration”.

Dwijen filed a case with Boalia Police Station. During investigation, police suspected Jiten for his “irrelevant” statement. During interrogation, he admitted that it was he who planned and staged the mugging, said the official. Based on his statement, police recovered the 16 gold bars from his house. He told police that he sold the other bar to a jewelry shop in Natore.

Jiten borrowed some Tk 1.40 crore while constructing his house in Puthia, said police. When he learnt about the gold bars, he saw it as an opportunity to pay of his loans.

He hid the gold bars and replaced the bag with irons before heading out of home to sell the bars.

Police said they are trying to arrest Jiten's associates.

Wall collapse kills 2 workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two construction workers were killed after a wall collapsed on them while working in port city's Love Lane area yesterday.

Salauddin (18) died on the spot and Sukkur (25) succumbed to injuries at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Sub-Inspector Al Imran of Kotwali Police Station.

A group of workers were working on the boundary wall of a local church near the regional election office, when a portion of the wall suddenly collapsed on the two, he said.

On information, fire service personnel and police rushed to the spot, Al Imran added.



This Wasa pipe leak at Chattogram's Mansurabad area has disrupted citizen life for about a week now, not to mention the tremendous amount of water being wasted. However, any kind of measures to fix it by the authorities concerned is yet to be seen. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Two offices at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital Barishal ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Two offices at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barishal have been ransacked.

The doors, grille, furniture and drawers were broken, and documents were left scattered on the floor of Accounting and Rent offices housed in one room, said SBMCH sources.

The incident took place at any time between Thursday night and early Saturday, said Accounting Officer Sultan Ahmed Hawladar.

“I stayed at office till afternoon on Thursday. Then I went Saturday morning and noticed the vandalism,” he said.

The officer, however, could not say who caused it and why.

SBMCH Rent Director Yusuf Talukder said, “There was no cash in my office.”

Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Shaheen said, “No document and money were lost.”

Barishal Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nurul Islam said they were informed of it and were trying to identify culprits by watching CCTV footage.

CRAB BEST REPORTING AWARD

Star journo bags a double

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no weekend for police and journalists, as they work for the betterment of society, Md Asaduzzaman, additional deputy inspector general of police of Dhaka Range, said yesterday.

“We will develop the society through our mutual cooperation,” he said while speaking as a special guest at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association (CRAB) Best Reporting Award-2019 at Dhaka Reporters' Unity's Nasrul Hamid Auditorium.

Mohammad Jamil Khan, a reporter for The Daily Star, received two awards for investigative journalism -- in the narcotics and woman and child repression categories.

A total of eight journalists were awarded for their reports in 2019: Ahmed Zayeeef of Daily Prothom Alo, Khan Muhammad Rumel of Sonoy Television and Shafiq Shaheen of NTV, Asif Zaman Sumit of Deepto TV, Dipan Dewan of Banglavisation and Amanur Rahman Rony of Bangla Tribune.

Noor Alam Mia, Additional DIG (Ops & Intelligence) of Dhaka Range, CRAB President Abul Khayer, Vice-President Morsalin Babla and General Secretary Asaduzzaman Biku handed over crests and prize money to the awardees.



Mohammad Jamil Khan receives one of his awards at the ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED