



Ghalib Ahmed Ansari, deputy general manager, Market Communications of GrameenPhone, hands over mobile connections to Lubna Marium, representative of Solace, for its 'Helpline' service at a ceremony recently.

Solace sets up Helpline with GP mobiles

Solace, an NGO working to rehabilitate the drug addicts, has started a Helpline service recently with support from GrameenPhone Ltd., says a press release.

The GrameenPhone has donated two mobile phone connections for this purpose.

Solace is run by a group of people consisting of families of recovering addicts. They work on a regular basis to socialise and to reinforce support for the recovering drug addicts.

In an attempt to help the parents of drug addicts and to provide them an outlet to express their concern, Solace has taken up this initiative to start a Helpline serving through mobile phones. Affected parents can call this Helpline to seek counselling, guidance and exchange their views. This will be a voluntary service by Solace-parent's network.

The "Helpline" numbers are 0173-060001 and 0173-060002.

Ghalib Ahmed Ansari, deputy general manager, Market Communications of GrameenPhone, handed over the mobile connections to Lubna Marium, representative of Solace, at a ceremony recently. Shibby Zaman, deputy general manager, Marketing of GrameenPhone, and Shahedul Islam of Solace were also present.

High-tech security

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have been deployed at different launch terminals, said a Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) official.

"This is for the first time that CCTV cameras have been installed at a launch terminal to safeguard the passengers," said Dr Reaz Hasan, chairman of BIWTA.

Special vigilance and voluntary teams will be active till November 12.

KAMALAPUR

A temporary police booth will soon be opened at the Kamalapur Railway Station to avert untoward incidents before and after Eid.

Government Railway Police (GRP), metropolitan police, BDR, DB and Rab men are on guard at railway stations, said Railway officials. People and luggage will be screened with metal detectors from November 1, they added.

BUS STATIONS

Inside of every bus will be videoed before it departs from the station, said a Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) source.

Every passengers and their luggage will be searched before they get on the buses, added the source.

PASSENGERS UNNERVED

"We can't count on our law enforcers as grenade and bomb attacks in spite of so-called tight security steps continue to rattle us," Mosharraf Hossain Mamun, a student of Dhaka University, told The Daily Star yesterday at Sadarghat launch terminal.

Belal Hossain, a government officer who came to Kamalapur station to book in advance a seat on a Sylhet-bound train, said panic seems to have set in among the people as the country is rapidly getting into the clutches of

militants and criminals thanks to the government's indifference to dealing with the situation.

"In her latest address to the nation, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia herself had admitted that her government has failed to prevent blasts and capture the culprits. When the situation is such, tell me how can we feel comfortable in our journey," said Abul Kashem while trying to get tickets for his family at Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday.

Every year around five million people leave the capital on the eve of the Eid, braving boundless sufferings for home.

GOVT INSTRUCTIONS

The home ministry has directed police, Rab and other law enforcement agencies to keep round-the-clock vigilance at terminals across the city to curb passenger harassment. At least one mobile court will work at each station.

"We're concentrating on stopping scalping of tickets and overloading of transport," State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told reporters after a meeting on law and order yesterday.

He said two mobile courts, Rab, police and BDR will start working at launch terminals in a day or two.

The ministry has ordered the authorities concerned to make sure the launches leave the terminal timely and they are not overloaded. Rab has been tasked with ensuring discipline in front of ticket counters and boarding points.

"We'll not let any overloaded launch to leave the terminals," said Babar, adding that he had already instructed the mobile courts to deal out 'exemplary punishments' to violators so that they have deterrent effect on others.



Abul Quasem Haider, chairman of Eastern University Foundation, speaks at the orientation ceremony for Fall Semester-2005 of the university in the city recently.