

DMP BID TO KEEP AN EYE FALLS APART

## Hotels neither following rules, nor cooperating

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) plan to keep a closer eye on city hotels cannot be implemented properly due to lack of cooperation from many hotels.

Police sources said collection of personal information about guests staying at the hotels is being hampered as the hoteliers are not following the rules.

"Many hotel management have decided not to ask their guests to fill in the questionnaire we gave them," said a spokesperson for the DMP.

In a bid to curb criminal and unsocial activities in city hotels, the police prepared special questionnaires with a set of 24 questions for the hotel boarders. The forms are designed to collect personal information about the boarders such as names, addresses, passport number, driving licence number and cellphone number.

Mohakhali. The police reportedly arrested two people as suspects for the murder. Sources said they took the taxicab driver to the hotel and murdered him.

The hotel has been under lock and key since

They remain there keeping a low profile, waiting for things to cool down. And then they disappear," a DMP official said.

Allegedly, many hotels are also considered as hubs for unsocial activities.

"Majority of the people

the hotel authorities to verify the authenticity of the cellphone numbers provided by the boarders.

The hoteliers are also required to have a digital camera and take a snapshot of the guests for security reasons. The have been asked to send the documents with the required information to the local police station on a daily basis.

Hoteliers say many boarders do not like the sudden invasion in their privacy.

"It is a good move for the community as a whole, but it is not without compromises," said Anup Hossain from a hotel at Farmgate. "This sort of policy would be suitable for the numerous roadside hotels. But hotels that have a genuine appeal to a lot of people should not be brought under it."

"Good hotels receive good customers who are respected in the society," said Shah Ali Khurram, a Pakistani businessman staying at Hotel Farmgate. "Having them to fill in forms and sit for photographs for security reasons will make them feel anything but good. It would be awkward and discomforting, at least for me."

Conversely, the hoteliers mention negligence by the police officers in properly enforcing the new regulations.

"I read in newspapers that the police will provide us with forms for our guests. But they never contacted us or gave us any instructions about it," said Md Sharif, manager of a hotel in Moghbazar.

An official from DMP said, "We have taken harsh actions against a number of hotels and their managers over the past few months, and since then criminal activities based in hotels has gone down to some extent."

The official admitted the lack of proper monitoring on city hotels but said they do not have skilled and specialised manpower to do the task.



An aerial view of the long-abandoned Purbachal Link Road, work of which will resume next month.

## Construction of Purbachal link road resumes in Jan

TAWFIQUE ALI

Work of the long-abandoned Purbachal Link Road is set to resume by mid January next year, said project officials.

"We have floated tender for earthwork of the link road and expect to issue work order to commence the earthwork of the entire road by January 15," said ABM Rafiqul Islam Khan, project director of Purbachal New Town.

Purchase committee of the cabinet division has approved the project and consultants have already been hired, he said.

Department of Roads and Highways (RHD) undertook the 300-foot link road connecting Pragati Sarani (Biswa Road) and Purbachal New Town with Dhaka bypass a couple of years back but was abandoned over delay and allegations of anomalies, said RHD officials.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakha (Rajuk) took over the work from RHD in mid 2008, as the later failed to complete the project,

under a Tk549-crore project. The road is vital for Rajuk's Purbachal New Town.

Rajuk member (development) Joinal Abedin Bhuiyan said though the RHD undertook the project in around 2004, it was abandoned later. Government later on decided that Rajuk would implement it.

advisor of Transport Sector Management Reform of the planning commission. Construction work of the 2.8 kilometre long flyover starts in next March and completion is expected by December 2010.

Construction of a bridge over the river Balu, culverts, five underpasses and two grade separators (overpass) will go on

the work. Once we can bring the work to a flow it will proceed in good pace."

The Purbachal link road was recommended to connect Biswa Road with Rajuk's Purbachal New Town and then Dhaka bypass road (Chittagong road linked with

Mymensingh and Jamuna Bridge).

Additional chief engineer of RHD Golam Mostafa said that actually, it took the RHD long to make progress in the roadwork. Though the RHD started earthwork of the road but it was delayed and postponed.

"There were complaints of anomalies in the work," he said, "Later, planning commission and higher authorities of the government decided that Rajuk would implement the project."

Purbachal link road is a dual carriageway and three-lane highway. It will be of two-lane beyond the river Balu. It has been earmarked as a Right of Way (total width dedicated to road).

Of the 13.3-kilometre long link road, a length of 6.4 kilometres will stretch from Pragati Sarani to the river Balu through Purbachal New Town and the rest 6.9 kilometres up to the Dhaka bypass road

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Achieving one major purpose of the proposed Kuril flyover depends on the link road, said Dr. M Rahmatullah, a policy

simultaneously under the link road project, said Khan.

The road project was undertaken in line with the recommendation in Strategic Transport Plan (STP) of Dhaka.

The project is scheduled to be complete by June 2012, said Khan, "But practically, we may need about six more months to finish



"The questionnaire is designed to collect key personal information about the guests so that we can have an idea of what kind of people are staying at the city residential hotels," he said.

Meanwhile, newspaper reports show a continuing trend of crimes in hotels.

Earlier last month, a woman was reportedly strangled in a hotel at Gabtoli. According to hotel authorities, the victim's husband was a regular boarder and therefore he was not asked to fill in the questionnaire.

In September, a CNG three-wheeler driver was murdered in a hotel at

the incident. Its employees and staff members have been in hiding.

Another girl was found unconscious in a hotel at Fakirerpul earlier in the month. Reportedly, the girl came to the hotel with a young man. The pair introduced themselves as a married couple.

Police sources put the blame on the hoteliers who did not collect information about their boarders as instructed by the police.

It is believed that many criminals tend to use hotel rooms as a base of operations to plan their crimes.

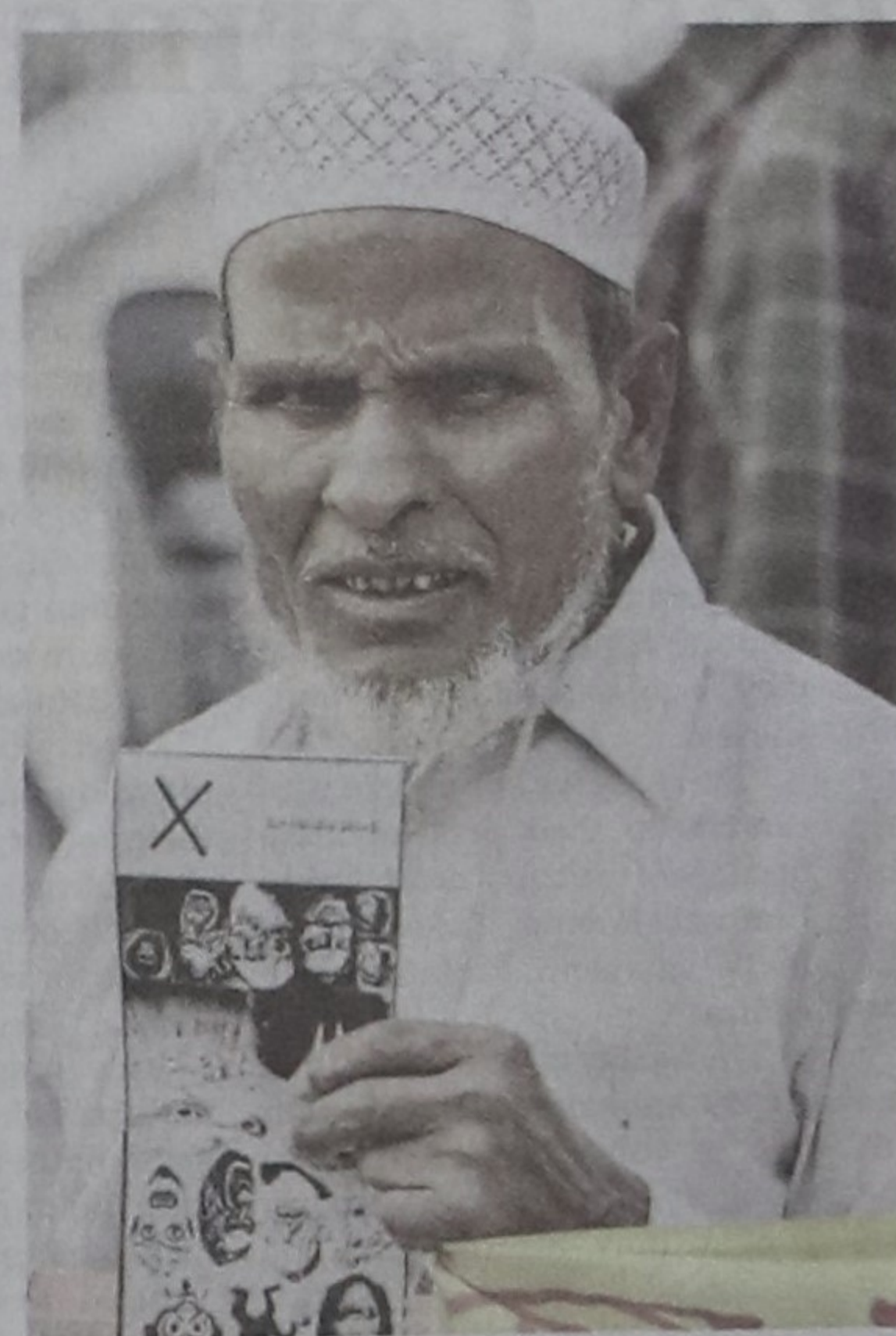
"Criminals also use hotel rooms as a hideout after committing crime.

staying at residential hotels easily get away by providing fake names and contact information," the official said. "Therefore, it becomes difficult for us to track offenders after a crime is committed."

In a bid to curb criminal and unsocial activities in city hotels, the police prepared the special questionnaires with a set of 24 questions for the hotel boarders.

The forms are designed to collect personal information about the boarders such as names, addresses, passport number, driving licence number and cellphone number. The police have also instructed

## Call to say 'no' to war criminals and communal forces in polls



Scores of organisations and people from all walks of life yesterday afternoon gathered near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to say 'no' to the war criminals, communal and militant forces in Monday's national election. Organised by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalai Nirmul Committee, the participants including freedom fighters, members of martyrs' families, intellectuals, women and cultural activists stood in a huge line on the Manik Mia Avenue to register protest against the evil forces and demand a Razakar-Albadar-free parliament.