



The protracted development work of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway has put Chittagong city people in a constant state of suffering. The photo was taken in Kajla yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Ctg beaches to get tourist police

TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) will constitute a unit of tourist police to facilitate tourism, protect biodiversity, and secure the two seashores along the port city.

A proposal will be sent to the police headquarters in Dhaka in this regard soon. The proposal says Patenga and Parki beaches are very attractive tourist spots where thousands arrive every day, but there is no separate law enforcement unit to attend the tourists as well as check activities harmful for the environment.

Only 114 police personnel from Patenga and Karnaphuli police stations have to check law and order in the beach areas in addition to their regular policing.

The two police stations also maintain law and order in a good number of important establishments like Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco), Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL), Marine Academy, Marine Fisheries Academy, Korean EPZ, Shah Amanat International Airport, Eastern Refinery, and Karnaphuli EPZ.

The proposal says this creates a shortage of security measures, for which visitors cannot spend their time on the beaches after a certain period of the day.

Moreover, once the Karnaphuli tunnel connecting the two beaches is constructed, it will increase the number of tourists tremendously apart from helping expansion of industrial and economic

activities on the banks of the Karnaphuli river, it adds.

Then it will be quite impossible for the existing workforce to attend tourists and save biodiversity from degradation, the proposal says.

So the CMP has asked, in the proposal, for 537 police members, including 150 female personnel, to introduce the new unit, said CMP sources.

The Patenga beach stretches over 17 kilometres from the Naval Academy to Kattali on the city's western edge while Parki is a 10 kilometres long beach just across the Karnaphuli.

According to the proposal, a deputy commissioner will head the tourist police, which will work in three groups—one will look after Bandar area, another will check South area, and the other will be dedicated for biodiversity conservation.

Twelve police outposts will be set up under Patenga and Karnaphuli police stations, which cover areas of the two beaches.

CMP Additional Commissioner (Crime) Banaj Kumar Majumdar, who played a prominent role in opening a tourist police unit in Cox's Bazar, said tourist police would get special training to help the growth of tourism and conservation of nature.

The unit will also provide information about tourist facilities and help coastal people during any natural disaster, he said.

545 ORDINANCES OF MARTIAL LAW REGIMES 2 bills seeking legitimacy passed by parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday passed two bills seeking legitimacy and continuation of the operation of over 545 now void ordinances promulgated during past two martial law regimes.

The special provision would not be considered as giving approval and ratification to any action done by the illegal and unconstitutional regimes, said a provision included in both bills.

The parliament, however, did not know the exact number and contents of the ordinances. The two bills, placed in parliament on February 19, came with a list of names of 166 ordinances.

According to a law ministry report, the two bills sought to replace two January 21 ordinances seeking continuation of the over 545 ordinances. Therefore, the parliament did not even know the names of 379 or more ordinances.

Opposing the passage, independent MP Fazlul Azim, the lone lawmaker in the opposition bench, yesterday proposed some

changes and urged to send the bills to a select committee for further scrutiny.

Rejecting Azim's proposals, Law Minister Shafiqe Ahmed said the bills must immediately be passed as the January 21 ordinances cease to have effect today.

He, however, said the ministries concerned would examine the ordinances and bring necessary changes.

Through the 5th and 7th constitutional amendments, all actions, including promulgation of the ordinances of the martial law regimes by Gen Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad, were ratified and validated.

During those periods the parliament did not exactly know what it ratified and validated as the constitutional amendments provided blanket indemnity to all actions of the two regimes.

The House in June 2011, after the Supreme Court declared the amendments illegal and void, deleted the two amendments' provisions through the 15th amendment. Afterwards, the law ministry did not take any step in this regard.

Boy killed 'by stepmother'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Sunday night recovered the body of a boy, who was killed allegedly by his stepmother, in Khilkhet area of the capital.

The victim Sheikh Mohammad Ishmam, 12, a class IV student of Khilkhet Prottyasha School, lived at Jamtola in the area with his stepmother Parveen Akhter, 22.

Ishmam's father Sheikh Shahnewaz of Sylhet is an expatriate in the Middle East.

Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Khilkhet Police Station, told The Daily Star that locals on Sunday informed them that the woman had fled after killing her stepson.

Police broke open the door of the victim's house and found the body lying on the floor.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the boy was strangled and there were some old injury marks in the body.

The OC said Ishmam's stepmother left their rented house on Saturday and the boy might have been killed by the woman sometime on that day.

A case was filed against Parveen and Ishmam's father Shahnewaz with the police station yesterday.

The OC said they heard that Shahnewaz has come to Bangladesh but they could not confirm the matter.

Two die from bullet wounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two persons, including an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader, who sustained bullet injuries in separate clashes with police in Sylhet, succumbed to their injuries yesterday.

The deceased are Ali Asgar Khan Rahat, social welfare secretary of Sylhet city unit of Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Shibir, and Abdur Rahman Shahin, a shop owner.

Rahat, also an accounting student of Madan Mohan College, sustained injuries when police opened fire on a Shibir procession on February 16. He was flown to the capital the same day for treatment.

The Shibir leader died at Apollo Hospitals and his body was sent back to Sylhet, Fakhrul Islam, assistant secretary of Sylhet city unit of Jamaat, told The Daily Star.

Shahin, on the other hand, was injured on February 22 when police fired gunshots to bring the situation under control after the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar was damaged by Islamist demonstrators.

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