

Panic button app

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Offering a traffic light of options, a red alert tells the sender is in imminent danger of being attacked or hurt. It also suggests you will need help soon, while green means you are in a low risk situation, such as being lost or breaking

The alerts can be sent to up to 30 contacts and can be accessed by police, who are able to login when notified at their control room.

Contacts are notified by pop-messages on their smartphones at regular intervals, with the space between the alerts depending on the panic button option. The alerts only stop once the alarm is deactivated by the sender.

The app, which launches this week, was developed by experts at DataMe, who

worked alongside local police forces to come up with a programme to help people feel safer in their daily lives.

Former Deputy Chief Constable David Lindley, who acted as a consultant on the project, says: "There may be any number of reasons and circumstances why people feel afraid or vulnerable.

having a mobile phone, apps such as PanicMe cannot only help to make those in need feel much safer but can also give peace of mind to those who care for them."

Smartphones.

HC stays remand

An HC bench of Justice Borhanuddin and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the order and rule after hearing two stay petitions filed by the accused opposition lead-

In the petitions, their lawyers said the government had arrested them in the old cases in order to politically harass them. There was no specific allegation against them of being involved in hartal violence, and that their names were not even mentioned in the first information reports (FIR) of the cases.

The petitioners also said the lower court had granted the remand prayers moved by the police without any reasonable ground.

AJ Mohammad Ali appeared for the petitioners while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the petitions.

A pro-BNP lawyer requesting anonymity told The Daily Star that the police were yet to take the BNP leaders on remand as the authorities received a copy of the lower court order yesterday morning.

not take them on remand, he said, adding the BNP leaders were in two Kashimpur jails in Gazipur.

detained in front of Hotel Sonargaon in the capital on November 8, while the two others were detained outside BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan residence the next

Later, they were shown arrested in the cases filed by Motijheel police on September 24 and November 6.

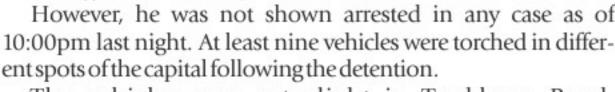
JCD GS arrested

9 vehicles torched in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have detained Habibur Rashid Habib, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the main

picked up Habibur from the capital's Shantinagar area around 2:00pm yesterday, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Media Wing), told The Daily Star.



Fakirapool, Jatrabari, Rampura, Hazipara, Khilgaon in the afternoon, said Fire Service and Civil Defense sources.

places in the city, protesting Habib's detention.

Deadline now

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Since the expiry of the amnesty, the Saudi security officials took action against the illegal expatriates and arrested several thousand of them, mainly African nationals.

But the number of the Bangladeshis was very few as majority of them ligalised their work permit under the amnesty, he added.

Meanwhile, Saudi newspapers reported a fresh clash took place yesterday in Jeddah, a week after a similar clash had happened between African nationals and Saudi police

Over the two clashes, the Saudi nationals, civil society and the Saudi employers backed the government and urged

involved in those clashes.

certification."

she said.

card was used.

expenses," she said

Washington DC, she added.

said. "On December 15, 2009, I certified that

The US department of justice then sent the

While reviewing all the bank records, she

documents to the attorney general of

Bangladesh via Bangladesh embassy in

found a photocopy of Tarique Rahman's pass-

port, which was submitted to Citibank

Singapore to obtain the second credit card on

Y0085483 and that of Mamun was Q0998382,

The passport number of Tarique was

"It lists Tarique's father as late President

Laprevotte said bank records between 2002

used for paying for travel to Athens of Greece,

The documents from the ACC revealed that

"These funds were transferred on August 18,

a Bangladeshi businesswoman named

Khadiza Islam transferred \$7,50,000 to

2003. This makes up most of the funds in Mr

Mamun's account in Singapore, she added.

Ziaur Rahman Bir Uttam. And his mother was

listed as Begum Khaleda Zia," she said, spelling

Mamun's bank account, she told the court.

each name out loud before the court.

opposition BNP. A team of Detective Police



Habibur Rashid Habib

The vehicles were set alight in Topkhana Road

The party activists hurled handmade bombs at different

But in Bogra, BNP men vandalised at added. buses, set fire to five vehicles and blockaded

FROM PAGE 1 in Pran's turmeric powder, which far exceeds the permissible limit of 2.5

On October 22, BSTI initiated a move consumer concerns after the US Food

BSTI had collected samples of spice powders, including turmeric, of seven local brands for testing those for heavy

powder contained high levels of lead, BSTI Director (Certification Mark) Kamal Prashad Das told The Daily Star.

Pran's Marketing Director Kamruzzaman Kamal confirmed BSTI's

both copies were identical and signed a letter of and sent samples of turmeric powder collected from different areas," he said.

Kamruzzaman claimed that Pran had withdrawn all its turmeric powder from

The BSTI action came at a time when a joint research by Dhaka Community Hospital, Harvard School of Public Health, and Boston Children's Hospital, USA detected up to 483 ppm of lead in

As many as 18 samples of turmeric powder had been collected from households in the area and tested at a laboratory of Harvard School of Public Health of Harvard University in the USA. Of the samples, 12 contained excessive levels of lead.

Prashad said BSTI, as part of its sur-

Following his deposition, defence counhumanity committed during the war.

Martyr's son testifies

FROM PAGE 16

December 4 to clarify about an affidavit allegedly sworn by Achhia.

The contents of the affidavit could not be known immediately.

Malek, who is a honey collector in the Sundarbans, said his father received training

in the forest during the Liberation War and fought against the infamous Razakar force, which was allegedly founded by Yusuf. He told the tribunal, "On June 9, 1971,

my father along with other freedom fighters went to Tafalbari Bazar around 2:30pm and were caught by some 30-35 Razakars. "My father was brutally beaten up on the

ground," said Malek and broke into tears.

The tribunal asked him to take a break. As the witness continued crying, Justice Hassan said, "You have come here to seek justice. Crying won't help you. You will have to say it." At this, the witness who is about 57

resumed deposition. "[My] father was being beaten up with rifle butts," said the witness, who used to sell bread in the bazaar. "As I went nearer, they threatened me

with rifle butts," said Malek, adding, he had to watch the brutal incident helplessly. At one stage of beating, his father was dragged to the bank of a nearby river and

shot to death. "His body was thrown into the river. Three days later we found the body and buried him in our home yard," he said. The witness said he could recognise some local Razakars including Yusuf. "Moulana Yusuf held my father against the ground

stepping into his hand," he added. Malek also identified Yusuf at the dock of the tribunal.

sel Mizanur Rahman cross-examined him.

In reply to a question, Malek said a case was filed with the District Judge's Court, Khulna in connection with his father's killing after independence and Yusuf was an

accused in that case. He denied a suggestion of the defence counsel that three years ago local leaders had influenced his mother to file a case

against Yusuf. The witness said he had first given a statement before the tribunal at the Tafalbari muktijoddha office. About 20 days after that he gave deposition at Sarankhola police

station. On completion of the crossexamination, the prosecution produced Malek's mother Achhia Khatun, seventh prosecution witness of the case.

During cross-examination defence counsel Mizanur showed her a document asking if she could recognise the photo attached to it. Achhia said it was her photo and

expressed her surprise how it was there. The defence counsel also showed her a signature on the document and asked her if she had signed it.

The witness said it was not her signature. At this stage, the tribunal saw the affida-

vit. The tribunal chairman said Achhia's affidavit should not be in other's possession unless it was made by others. Since the witness denied signing on the affidavit, the tribunal summoned the law-

yers concerned to verify it. The proceeding of the case was

his alleged involvement in crimes against

adjourned until today. Yusuf is facing 13 war crimes charges for

Verdict catches Dhaka-Rangpur highway both before and

after the verdict.

FROM PAGE 16 held rallies at the court premises and other

parts of the country to rejoice. Senior BNP leaders including the party

spokesperson Fakhrul Islam Alamgir a day before the verdict had said the court might convict Tarique on "instructions of the government". As soon as the judge left the courtroom

after delivering the verdict, hundreds of pro-BNP lawyers burst into loud cheers and shouted slogans in and outside of the courtroom. BNP activists, who were preparing at the party's Naya Paltan office to stage

violent protests, also burst into celebration as the news of Tarique's acquittal reached there. Talking to reporters, Fakhrul said, "All the cases filed against Tarique Rahman are

has proved that he was not involved in any kind of corruption." least 20 vehicles including passenger-laden

false and politically motivated. This verdict

They also torched a truck at Charmatha and vandalised several other vehicles on

Bogra-Molamgari road in Ghoradhap. Joynal Abedin, general secretary of BNP's Bogra unit, however, said BNP men were not

those vehicles. "We would have reacted violently if Tarique was falsely convicted. But we held a rally to celebrate and distributed sweetmeats after the court acquitted Tarique," he

involved in vandalism and setting fire to

added. Sources said the party, especially its Bogra unit, and its student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were ready to carry out violent protests if the verdict had gone against Tarique.

A leader of JCD's Dhaka University unit told The Daily Star that they had decided to hurl handmade bombs in the city and its outskirts.

"But instead, we have participated in the rally to celebrate the acquittal," the leader

Pran's licence suspended

ppm set by it.

to test Pran's turmeric powder amid and Drug Administration had found excessive amounts of lead in the spice exported to the USA.

metals, mainly lead. It found that only Pran's turmeric

suspension order.

"We have already given a reply to BSTI

the market.

turmeric powder available in the markets of Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj.

and 2006 show how Tarique Rahman's credit veillance activities, had also collected "The charges total \$50,613.97, which were

samples of turmeric powder from Munshiganj district and detected high levels of lead in the spice marketed by a regional

"We will take action against the firm,"

Asked how contaminated turmeric powder was still available in the market, BSTI DG Iqramul said the agency was conducting surveillance operations regularly, despite lack of manpower.

Surveillance teams of BSTI have conducted more than 200 drives in the last three months, he said.

CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION DIRECTORATE Apart from BSTI, the Directorate of

National Consumers Rights Protection (DNCRP) also sent samples of turmeric powder to labs for testing in the third week of October. Nearly a month has been passed since

then but it is yet to get the tests done and submit a report to the commerce minis-Contacted, DNCRP Director General

Abul Hossain Mian could not give reasons behind the delay. Asked whether the delay was due to negligence, he said, "We do not want to

avoid responsibility." "It [presence of lead] has already been proved. And the company has withdrawn its products from the market. What can we do now?" he told The Daily Star when asked about the action the direc-

torate had taken regarding the matter. He said DNCRP did not have the legal

authority to take action. Asked about the presence of lead in turmeric powder of Munshiganj, Abul said he was not aware of the issue.

18-party's

FROM PAGE 16 He, however, did not give any particular

Hasina in the chair.

time or name any venue for the programme in the capital. BNP announces the programme at a

time when US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal is in Bangladesh on what is deemed a crucial visit amid growing political turmoil over polls-time government. The nearly two-and-a half-hours cabi-

net meeting was held yesterday at the Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh

Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters that he was yet to receive the resignation letters of the ministers and state ministers. Rizvi also criticised the government for deploying law enforcers to "besiege" the

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary

BNP's Naya Paltan central office. The BNP joint secretary general, who has been staying at the party central office

headquarters.

for last three weeks, said members of police and intelligence agencies confined him to the office and no other opposition leader was allowed to enter the party

Of Justice to Dhaka to obtain information regarding the asset recovery cases. "The US reviewed this request to ensure that

it was not politically motivated," she added.

these accounts, I discovered a bank account in Citibank of Singapore," she said. "The account was in the name of Giasuddin

The US Department Of Justice requested the documents regarding the account via mutual

years 2004 and 2005," she said. She found two credit cards against the

"The first credit card on the account was a Visa credit card in the name of Mr Mamun," she told the court, adding that the number of Mamun's Visa credit card was

"There was another credit card in the name Frankfurt of Germany, Singapore, Bangkok and of Tarique Rahman," she said, spelling out Dubai, along with shopping and medical loud the letters of Tarique's name from the paper she held. The number of the credit card was 4568817010064122.

of documents containing 229 pages. Laprevotte said when the US received the

Mamun.

"In December 2009, I compared the records received from Singapore to those received by Bangladesh government from Singapore," she examine the witness.

"With so many people these days

Smartphone users can download a limited option of the PanicMe button for free. The complete version costs £14.99 and is available for the year on Apple, Android and Windows

Now after the HC ruling, the police can-

Moudud, Anwar and Rafiqul were

Islam, consul general of Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah, yesterday.

It also deported around 20,000 illegal expatriates.

Those who failed to complete their legalisation or deportation process can legalise now, Nazmul said.

in Riyadh.

to take stern action against the illegal expatriates. Nazmul, however, confirmed that no Bangladeshi was

What FBI stated in deposition

the FBI, narrated before a Dhaka court how she had tracked down the money allegedly laundered by Tarique, also senior vice-chairman of the BNP, and Mamun to a bank account in Singapore.

She said the documents recovered from the

Singapore bank included detailed records of

money transfers and payments made via the

account. The documents also included the pho-

tocopies of Tarique and Mamun's passports, which were submitted when the two applied for credit cards from the bank. "The first credit card on the account was a Visa credit card in the name of Mr Mamun,"

she told the court, adding: "...There is another credit card in the name of Tarique Rahman." Giasuddin Al Mamun, 47, stood in the dock at the back of the courtroom throughout the two-hour-long proceedings on the day whereas

Tarique Rahman remained a fugitive.

12:05pm. "I'm a supervisory special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation," she said, adding: "I've been an FBI agent for 16 years. I have a master's degree in forensic science and advanced training in money-laundering techniques."

"In my country, I'm considered an expert in

international money-laundering for testi-

Laprevotte, 50, began her testimony at

mony purposes," she said. "In 2008, the then interim government of Bangladesh requested the assistance of the United States pursuant to a mutual legal assistance request," she said.

As per the request, she said, the US government sent representatives of the Department

She told the court that she started her investigation with the permission of the US government soon after the representatives of the US Department Of Justice had met the Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC). "As part of my investigation, I discovered several bank accounts in Singapore. Among

Al Mamun.'

legal assistance to Singapore. "I received the documents for the bank accounts 158052-008 and 158052-016 for the

account. 4568817000064124.

Laprevotte then presented a set of documents, comprising 43 pages, before the court as evidence. She later gave the court another set

Mamun's account at Citibank Singapore, which account records from Singapore, the was used to make payments from Tarique Bangladesh government also made a request to Rahman's credit card," she said. Singapore, via mutual legal assistance, for the bank records of the accounts, including that of

"That is my testimony," said Debra Laprevotte, as she ended her 75-minute deposition at 1:20pm. Mamun's lawyer on that day boycotted the court and left the court refusing to cross-