

Shahjalal airport gets 3 thermal scanners to check Ebola

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has set up three archway thermal scanners at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital to record temperatures of arriving passengers as part of precautions against the Ebola threat.

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim inaugurated the installation of the thermal scanners yesterday afternoon.

The scanners will measure body temperatures of the passengers passing through them. Around 7,000 passengers arrive at the airport daily.

Fever is one of the primary symptoms of Ebola infection. Now medical teams are using hand-held thermal scanners to check the body temperatures of the people coming from the West African countries, which are struggling to contain the deadly virus.

"We've set up two archway thermal scanners at the immigration point, and another at the VVIP entry and exit point," Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, director (communicable disease control) at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The Daily Star.

Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and Director General of the DGHS Dr Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque, among others, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

The government has purchased seven archway thermal scanners from Singapore to prevent Ebola intrusion into the country.

Three other scanners would be set up at Chittagong and Sylhet airports and Benapole land port soon, said Nasim.

He said another scanner would be kept on standby for emergency use.

The seven scanners and some other necessary equipment cost Tk 2.45 crore, an official of the DGHS said.

On October 16, an inter-ministerial meeting held at the airport decided to purchase these scanners amid growing concerns over the spread of the deadly

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia delivering her speech at a huge rally of 20-party on Gurudayal Govt College ground in Kishoreganj yesterday. PHOTO: BNP

Don't train Rab, police

FROM PAGE 16

being used against militants and criminals," she said at the packed ground.

Khaleda called upon the United Nations not to hire Rab personnel for its missions abroad, saying they might carry out the same sort of activities there.

If necessary, the BNP will send documents and reports about the repressive acts of the Rab and police to the international rights bodies, she went on to say.

Then she turned to the Detective Branch (DB) of Police, and said the DB is now being used for "contract killing".

JUDICIARY NOT SPARED EITHER

Turning to judiciary, Khaleda Zia said people will not spare any judge, no matter how high profile they are, if they do any injustice.

She called upon the judges to ensure justice for all. "Otherwise, you will have to be accountable before the Almighty Allah on the

Judgment Day."

Khaleda urged the judges to act without any fear or favour, and said her party will "remain with the judges" if they do so.

WARNING FOR RULING PARTY

The ruling Awami League and its front organisations -- Chhatra League, Jubo League and Swachhchasebak League -- have become the most powerful in the country, Khaleda alleged.

Once it steps down from the government, the ruling party people will suffer consequences worse than former military strongman HM Ershad did, she said.

Khaleda Zia asked her party men to resist the government's "repressive acts" and take up "swords and shields like the brave Isa Khan [a sixteenth century leader of landlords]," if necessary.

"Kishoreganj is the land of the brave Isa Khan. Surely you haven't forgotten his sword. So, if you don't have anything in your hands and the repression intensifies, then there will

be swords and shields for you [to counter it]," she said.

One may recall that on September 18, 2006, the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at a rally in the city's Paltan area called upon her party men to come to Dhaka carrying logs and oars to force the then BNP-led government to hold an election.

Referring to another historical event -- the battle of Plassey, the BNP chief said that a new Mir Jafar [traitor] is conspiring against the BNP and the country.

"If there is a Mir Jafar, there must be a Siraj ud-Daulah as well. Mir Jafar never won against Siraj ud-Daulah. We also carry the blood of Siraj ud-Daulah in our veins. We will defeat the new Mir Jafar and our victory is certain," she said, hinting at the AL being the traitor.

She also criticised the government for "foiling" the BNP's November 8 Suhrawardy Udayan rally "using law enforcers".

AND PROMISES

Khaleda then went on to pledge that they will change the face of the country by establishing a pro-people government if a free, fair and inclusive election is held under a non-partisan government.

"We will change all those old elements and will start with new ones. We must bring change in the country," she asserted.

Before joining the rally at 3:45pm, Khaleda reached the district circuit house. A man wearing royal dress with a wooden sword in his hand and seated on an elephant received her.

Leaders and activists of the BNP-led alliance decorated the key points of the town with colourful banners, posters, festoons and placards. Several hundred arches were erected from the Meghna Bridge in Bhairab to the rally venue to welcome her.

This was Khaleda's eighth visit outside the capital since January 5 election boycotted by the BNP and its allies.

Google bus starts

FROM PAGE 1

"The project will open the windows of internet to the people," he added.

The campus workshop experience involves an instructor-led training session and peer collaboration to familiarise students with many different Google tools that they can use to make the most of their online experience, reads a statement of Google.

These include Google Search, Chrome, Docs, Maps, YouTube, Google+ and others. Each student will also have the opportunity to practice what he/she has learnt on an internet-enabled Android device.

The Google bus itself has been retrofitted with stowaway seats, 3G Internet connectivity and an array of monitors and sound system where audio-video training material can be cast to all the screens.

James McClure, country manager of Emerging Markets, Google Asia-Pacific, said "Equipped with the right training, we think this young, energetic and highly motivated section of society would be able to maximise the endless possibilities of the internet and create a connected, digital Bangladesh for the global village."

He said over the next few months the bus will make its way to academic institutions in and around Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal and other major cities.

The state minister mentioned that the government is also in discussion with Google to launch four to five more projects in Bangladesh including their "Google Balloon" project.

Google Balloon is a new concept to provide internet service through receivers by putting balloons in the air with equipment.

Street view, on the other hand, is a kind of service that allows people to find all the roadside establishments -- including restaurants, offices and beautiful places. The images can be viewed from anywhere in the world.

Last year Google completed filming the major streets of Dhaka and Chittagong and processed those for uploading.

Google started the project in Bangladesh with two cars equipped with cameras through 360-degree street-level imagery in February last year.

Verdict in war crimes case today

FROM PAGE 1

nine and deportation of seven others at Nagarkanda in Faridpur between April 27 and July 17 in 1971.

The tribunal drew conclusion to the proceedings of the case on April 17 this year and Mokhlesur Rahman Badal, conducting prosecutor, sought capital punishment, as he said all 11 charges against the accused were "proved beyond any shadow of doubt".

On the other side, state-appointed defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan sought acquittal and argued that the prosecution had implicated Mayor of Nagarkanda "MA Zahid" in war crimes offences committed by some other "MA Zahid Hossain Khokon".

An investigation agency completed probe against the war crimes accused on May 29 last year and submitted a probe report to the prosecution.

The prosecution on June 23, 2013 submitted formal charges to the tribunal. The court subsequently took the charges into cognisance on July 18 and framed charges against the accused on October 9 last year.

As many as 24 witnesses including investigation officer of the case Satya Ranjan Roy testified against Khokon with the prosecution producing their first witness on November 21.

The prosecution began placing their arguments on April 9 this year and after four days of hearing from both sides, the tribunal on April 17 kept the case waiting for verdict.

KHOKON'S PROFILE

Khokon took part in election campaign for a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate in 1970 and had got involved with the party before he joined BNP.

As the vice-president of Nagarkanda

unit BNP, he took part in the municipality election in 2011 and became mayor but went into hiding after taking the oath.

The investigation officer said they had no concrete information on his whereabouts but believes the accused might be in Sweden with his son and daughter.

Khokon was allegedly a close associate of Abul Kalam Azad, a condemned war criminal from Faridpur.

Khokon, his elder brother Zafar, Azad and other anti-liberation people allegedly welcomed the Pakistan occupation army in Faridpur on April 21, 1971 and received arms from them.

Zafar and a number of Pakistani army men were killed in a battle at Chandhaat on May 29, 1971.

After Zafar's death, four Razakar groups, including that of Khokon and Azad, were involved in looting, arson and killing in many villages for three subsequent days.

CHARGES

1. Khokon along with other Razakars plundered six houses at Bongram village and abducted 19 people. Among the 19 detainees, 17 were tortured at Nagarkanda Police Station and released in exchange of Tk 10,000 each.

2. Between April 28 and May 6 in 1971, Khokon and his cohorts destroyed houses of Kanai Lal Mondol and Jibon Das of Jongurdi-Bagutia village and forcibly collected Tk 15,000 after threatening them with religious conversion.

3. Any day between May 16 and May 28, Razakars led by Khokon and his brother Zafar converted eight Hindus at Jongurdi-Bagutia village into

Muslims. The victims later took shelter in India.

4. Led by Khokon on May 27, armed Razakars looted valuables from Hindus at Chandhat village. Khokon and his cohorts also raped two women.

5. He abetted Pakistani occupation army by showing them path to Kodalia village. They set fire to several houses and caught around 50-60 people from a nearby hideout. Nineteen people including women and children were shot dead by Khokon, his accomplices and the army.

6. Accompanied by the Pakistani army on May 30, the accused plundered and set fire to many houses at Ishwardi village. As people were fleeing for life, Khokon and others shot dead four and injured Fulmoti Begum.

7. The accused, accompanied by the Pakistani army, went to Digholia-Ghorarnara Beel of Kodalia village and burned to death three people. Khokon shot dead one Asiruddin Matubbar of Meherdia village and accompanied the army, who shot dead Safizuddin Matubbar.

8. Khokon along with Razakars and the Pakistani army on May 31 went to Galdi village and shot dead two persons including a two-year-old baby.

9. He was involved in killing six people at Purapara village on May 31.

10. The war crimes accused accompanied by the Pakistani army and Razakars set fire to many houses at Bagat and Churichar villages on June 1. They shot dead around 15-20 people.

11. Khokon on any day between July 1 and July 17 shot and injured one Kanailal Mondol of Jongurdi-Bagutia village.

Waiter turns fraudster

FROM PAGE 16

his loyalty to them, he was in for a job that would land him in jail sooner or later.

The trio were experts in making fake currency notes. They first employed him to distribute and circulate fake notes to retailers across the country. But soon Alauddin himself learnt all the techniques and skills for manufacturing notes.

"They chose me for circulating the notes in the market and gave a handsome amount of money in return. Later, I learned from them how to produce the fake notes," he said adding that many groups are involved in the crime.

Alauddin, 45, and his aide Md Mamun, 42, were arrested yesterday by detectives for possessing counterfeit notes worth Tk 23 lakh in the capital.

A team of Detective Branch of police nabbed Mamun from Basabo area and seized 200 counterfeit notes of Tk 1,000



Alauddin and Mamun

from his possession, said Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.

Later, based on information given by Mamun, the DB team busted the factory at Alauddin's house in Siddhirganj and seized fake currency notes and other materials, he added.

The fake note-making materials include paper, a laptop, three printers and security thread, colours and other

chemicals.

The two men, accused in several other cases with different police stations, were arrested earlier but managed to find new ways of resuming their crime upon bail, Monirul said.

The production cost of Tk 1 lakh fake notes ranges between Tk 3,000 and Tk 4,000. They sold those for Tk 7000 to 8000, said Alauddin when he and his associate were paraded at the media centre.

A DB official preferring to be unnamed told The Daily Star that production and circulation of fake notes occur in several phases.

One group prepares the notes while another group sells them to wholesale buyers who then sell those to retailers across the country, he added.

The retailers circulate the notes in the markets when buying goods, DB officials said.

Tired, doesn't like being rich

FROM PAGE 16

"IPO is great because ... I'm happy with the results, but honestly I think when people think too highly of you, you have the responsibility to calm down and be yourself."

These pressures may not be receding anytime soon. Ma told CNBC he hopes to take one of Alibaba's most successful branches public in the near future. Alipay, which handles financial services such as digital payment and escrow, will go public not to raise funds, he said, but to provide the opportunity for more public scrutiny, and therefore enhance confidence in the platform.

But Ma said the stress in his life is coming from more than just his job: Becoming China's richest man has provided its own set of headaches.

"People say, 'Well Jack, rich people is good.' Yeah it is good, but not the richest man in China. It's a great pain because when you're (the) richest person in the

world, everybody (is) surrounding you for money," he said. "Today when I walk on the street, people look at you in a different—I want people to see this is entrepreneur, this is a guy who is having fun of himself, and I want to be myself."

In order to get rid of this "pain," Ma suggested he is looking at ways to use his money to give back to society.

Any philanthropy will have to be efficient and effective, he said, because "spending money is much more difficult than making money." Ma said he is looking at potentially establishing a foundation that can "spend money in a business way."

Ma even suggested that he may be competing with the other global billionaires in this regard.

"The competition between me and Bill Gates probably: Who can spend money more effectively that can do better philanthropy," he said.

Ma spoke with CNBC as Alibaba's most successful promotion ever drew to a close: It's annual Singles' Day shopping event drew in \$9.34 billion in sales over 24 hours, easily besting last year's total of about \$5.8 billion.

But even this runaway success (the highest analyst estimates called for \$9 billion, while many expected just over \$8 billion) is causing stress, Ma said. All of those sales, he said, will necessitate perfect execution and logistics to ensure timely three-day deliveries.

He said he is closely monitoring the weather throughout China.

Singles' Day—so named because the date Nov. 11 has four singles (11/11)—is China's equivalent of Cyber Monday. The event was essentially invented by Alibaba in 2009 when the company took an in-joke between university students celebrating bachelorhood, and morphed it into an excuse for purchasing discounted consumer goods.

Another victim

FROM PAGE 16

95,000 which they had got from Primark, a foreign garment buyer, as compensation.

Saleha Begum, wife of Kajol, said the ill-fated man even had started to show physical improvement following the treatment.

But their happiness was not to last long.

After 18 months of struggle, Kajol breathed his last at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in the capital yesterday. Doctors said he had suffered a cardiac arrest.

Tragedy indeed struck him when he was working as a supervisor at the finishing department in Ether Tex Ltd, a factory housed on the fifth floor of Rana Plaza, on the day the building came crashing down.

He got stuck under the rubble after the nine-storey building near Savar Bus Stand caved in on April 24 last year.

Rescuers pulled him alive and rushed to the nearby Enam Medical College Hospital the next day.

Since then, he was treated at several hospitals, said his family.

Saleha said it was depression and trauma of the tragedy not the physical pain that had engulfed his husband after that day.

"He was really depressed and was under tremendous mental pressure as he could not earn anything," she said.

Saleha also vented her anger as she claimed to have got no financial assistance from the government or the BGMEA for the treatment.

"My husband could have been saved had he not been deprived of proper treatment due to lack of money," she told The Daily Star.

US, China announce

FROM PAGE 16

World Resources Institute president Andrew Steer saying: "It's a new day to have the leaders of the US and China stand shoulder-to-shoulder and make significant commitments to curb their countries' emissions."

China has trumpeted its efforts to reduce dependence on coal and oil in the past, and is the world's largest hydropower producer, with a growing nuclear sector.

But economic growth remains a vital priority and has seen demand for energy soar, with coal use a significant source of Beijing's notorious pollution.

Much of Obama's action on climate change meanwhile has been carried out with executive orders rather than cooperation from an often confrontational legislature.

The deadline for Obama's new pledge is in more than a decade's time, but he only has two years left in his presidency. He faces a Congress now set to be controlled by opposition Republicans in both houses after this month's mid-term elections, making passing environmental legislation even more difficult.

In an early portent of the battles to come, the US Senate's new Republican leader was quick to slam Obama's proposed greenhouse gas reductions.

"This unrealistic plan, that the president would dump on his successor, would ensure higher utility rates and far fewer jobs," Senator Mitch McConnell said.

This year is the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Washington and the People's Republic, and the joint announcement was a rare moment of common purpose from the leaders of the world's two largest economies, which regularly clash on issues from trade to rights and are increasingly seen as competing on the world stage.

But China set a target for its greenhouse gas output to peak "around 2030", which Obama commended as a commitment to "slow, peak and reverse the course" of its emissions.

And Obama, who faces scepticism as well as outright denial about climate change in the US Congress, set a goal for the United States to cut its own emissions of greenhouse gases by 26-28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025.

"We have a special responsibility to lead the worldwide effort against climate change," Obama said at a joint news conference with Xi.

China and the US, which together produce around 45 percent of the world's carbon dioxide, will be key to ensuring a global deal on reducing emissions after 2020 is reached next year.

The two countries have long been at loggerheads over global targets, with each saying the other should bear more responsibility for cutting emissions of gases blamed for heating up the atmosphere.

But after the 2009 Copenhagen Summit nearly ended in fiasco, salvaged only by a last-minute deal brokered by Obama and China's then premier, Washington and Beijing have started to move closer towards agreement.

Christiana Figueres, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) organising the Paris negotiations, welcomed the announcement as providing "both practical and political momentum".

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said the announcement provided "ambitious" models for other nations to follow.

The International Energy Agency branded the deal "a giant leap for mankind".

Environmental advocates also hailed it as a "breakthrough", with the US-based