

Extortion of transporters of cattle won't be tolerated

Claims home minister
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday urged the public to immediately inform the ministry about any incident of extorting money from cattle traders and truckers on roads ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The minister, after laying the foundation stone of a fire station at Lohagara upzila in Chittagong, said no one, let it be a policeman or someone else, will be spared if his involvement is found in such extortion.

Earlier, at a meeting with representatives of civil society, the minister said 50,000 police personnel will be immediately appointed across the country, including Chittagong, to address the manpower shortage.

Awami League lawmakers of Satkania and Chandanaish upazilas, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Mejbah Uddin, Deputy Inspector General of police (Chittagong range) Shafiqul Islam and Superintendent of Police, Chittagong AKM Hafiz Akter also spoke.

Dhaka to stay tough on terrorism

Bangladeshi envoy in Thailand tells Thai police; gov't puts its foreign missions on high alert, orders stricter visa policy
STAR REPORT

Bangladesh will uphold its zero-tolerance policy against any terrorism suspects at home and abroad under its stringent counter-terrorism laws, including the suspected mastermind of the Erawan Shrine bomb attacks who transited through Bangladesh last month, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem told the Royal Thai Police yesterday.

During a meeting with Spokesperson and Assistant Police Commissioner of the Royal Thai Police, Pol Lt Gen Dr Prawut Thavornsir, in Bangkok, the envoy assured the Thai law enforcement agencies of all-out cooperation from Bangladesh on the possible tracing down of activities of the Bangkok bomb blast suspect who as per Bangladesh police sources left Bangladesh on August 30 following a two week transit stay last month, said a press release.

Against the backdrop, Bangladesh has put its foreign missions on a high alert regarding issuance of tourist visas, especially to the third country nationals.

The government has also ordered strict profiling of visa seekers and an even stricter visa policy amid the growing incidents of terrorism, officials told The Daily Star.

According to Bangladesh government records, the alleged mastermind was issued a single entry tourist visa in early August who entered Bangladesh on August 16, the day before the blast.



Floating bamboos up for sale in the Buriganga river, opposite Mitford hospital in the capital, blocking the navigation route of vessels. The traders were evicted by the Bangladesh Inland Water Authority (BIWTA) quite a few times but they returned shortly afterwards. Local residents say influential people are behind the grabbing. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh can be top veg grower thru proper research

Agriculture Minister Matia tells Ctg views exchange meeting
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh can achieve the first position in vegetable production in the world if it can advance with proper research and planning, said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday.

Presently, the country ranks fourth in vegetable production, the minister told a views exchange meeting with her ministry officials posted in Chittagong and Rangamati at Chittagong Circuit House in the city.

Matia said many of the country's fruits, including guava of Patiya in Chittagong, could be exported abroad if the production capacity was improved through research.

She told agricultural scientists, "We need safe harvest in short time to save crops from natural calamities." The country is self-sufficient in rice production, but not in pulse and some other crops, she said.

New water plant for port city by end of the year: Wasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Water scarcity in Chittagong city will be reduced remarkably with the completion of one of the two ongoing water supply projects by the end of this year, said Chittagong Wasa's managing director yesterday.

AKM Fazlullah was addressing a seminar jointly organised by Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWasa) and Japan International Co-operation Agency (Jica), and titled "Ongoing Water Supply Projects of Jica in CWasa."

Chittagong city has a demand of over 500 million litre per day (mld) while CWasa at present can supply only 210 mld.

Under one of the ongoing projects,

Karnaphuli Water Supply Project (KWSP)-1, construction of about 69 kilometre-long transmission and distribution line and three reservoirs has already been completed while a treatment plant with a capacity of 143 mld is expected to be completed by the end of this year, said Fazlullah.

Another project, KWSP phase-2, is expected to commence in early 2016 and end in 2019 under which another treatment plant and a 600km transmission and distribution pipeline and a reservoir would be constructed to ensure supply of 143 mld.

Besides, a surface water treatment plant with a capacity of 90 mld would be constructed at Modunaghat from the Halda river in the future under a project financed by the World Bank.

With completion of these three projects, CWasa would be able to fulfill the total demand of the city, Fazlullah assured.

Taku Yamabe, senior representative from Jica, said Jica is also providing technical support since 2009 under the project titled "Institutional Improvement and Advancing Non-Revenue Water Reduction Initiative (PANI) of CWasa" to strengthen its operational activities and make its workforce more efficient.

Besides, Jica with the help of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is also working for supplying water to low income communities in Chittagong city since 2014.

Masuumi Hiroyama, team leader of NJS Consultants Co Ltd, also spoke.

RU PLAN TO OPEN EEE DEPARTMENT

Applied physics students protest move

Claim both disciplines have the same syllabus

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of applied physics and electronic engineering (APEE) of Rajshahi University yesterday protested the planned launch of the electrical and electronic engineering (EEE) department, saying the two disciplines had the same curriculum.

More than 200 students brought out a protest procession around 1:00pm demanding cancellation of the decision, taken at an academic council meeting recently.

Two disciplines cannot be run with the same syllabus, said Omar Faruk, a protester.

Another said, "Either the authorities have to cancel the decision of opening the EEE department or change the name of our department into EEE."

They also threatened tougher agitation.

Prof Abu Bakar Md Ismael, dean of the engineering faculty, however, said there were some similarities in the curricula but they would not create any difficulty for students.

Moreover, changing the name of the APEE department will create complexities because the discipline is old and has a different significance, he told The Daily Star.

11 women get Anannya Shirshodosh award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fortnightly magazine Anannya yesterday honoured 11 women with the "Anannya Shirshodosh 2014" award for their contribution to different sectors in the country.

The award giving ceremony also coincided with the magazine's 27th anniversary, which has been promoting women's voice. Tasmima Hossain, founder and editor of the magazine, recounted its history to the audience, who included most of the 200 women leaders recognised for their contribution to different fields since "Anannya Shirshodosh" began in 1993.

This year, Prof Laila Noor, vice chairperson of National Women's Association, won the award for her contribution in the Language Movement of 1952.

Vice chancellors of Jahangirnagar University and Buet Prof Dr Farzana Islam and Khaleida Ekram were honoured for being the first and second female VCs respectively.

Dr Tahmina Banu, chairman of the paediatric surgery department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, won the award for development of treatment of five diseases.

Meher Afroz Chumki, state minister for

women and children's affairs, received the award in the field of politics, while Rokhsana Sultana, executive director of "Breaking the Silence", an NGO creating awareness about the sexual harassment of children by family members, received it for her social work.

In the field of law and human rights, Tureen Afroz, prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, received the award.

Nazia Andaleeb Preema got the award in visual art category.

Flight Lt Nayma Haque and Flying Officer Tamanna-E-Lutfi, first female combat pilots of the country, were also honoured. On December 17, 2014, they successfully flew two helicopters for 15 minutes and landed safely.

Captain of Bangladesh Women's National Cricket team Salma Khatun was awarded in the field of sports. Salma topped the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 all-rounder rankings in January this year in women's cricket.

Meanwhile, noted journalist Dil Monowora Monu received a lifetime achievement award at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh. Each awardee was presented with a crest and a certificate.



Winners of the Anannya Shirshodosh 2014 award with guests at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the capital's Farmgate yesterday. Fortnightly magazine Anannya honoured 11 women with the award for their contributions to different sectors in the country.

PHOTO: STAR



This Bailey bridge over a canal at Craow Amtoli Para in Sadar upazila of Bandarban collapsed on Friday night, snapping road communications between Bandarban and Rangamati. PHOTO: STAR

Bring back all trafficked

FROM PAGE 3

Rights activist Dr Hameeda Hossain urged the government to bring back all Bangladeshis stranded in refugee shelters and detention centres in Malaysia and other countries.

She also pointed out that the trafficked people who already came back home need to be rehabilitated as many of them had sold their properties to pay traffickers.

Assistant Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmad said a national commission involving affected people, civil society members, and government representatives was needed to stop human trafficking.

"There should be resistance from the local to national levels," he said.

Coordinator of Bhalobashi Bangladesh Harun-ur-Rashid said had there been enough jobs in the country people would not have risked their lives to go abroad.

The rallies held at Narayanganj's Kanjpur and Arahazar and three places in Narsingdi saw the presence of affected families and local government representatives.

Focus on neglected tropical

FROM PAGE 4

Nearly 147 million people are at risk of kala azar with the disease being endemic in parts of Bangladesh, India and Nepal with sporadic cases reported from Bhutan and Thailand, according to the release.

Indonesia is one of the highest burden countries for yaws in the world. Timor-Leste and Indonesia are the only two countries in the region reporting yaws cases, it said.

Govt needs to be sincere

FROM PAGE 3

ensure congestion-free canals, box culverts and concrete storm sewers to make those functional, he said.

"At the same time, river foreshores, flood flow zones and water retention areas must be reclaimed from illegal occupation," said Ranjit.

Prof Nazrul Islam, honorary chairman of the Centre for Urban Studies, said there were no initiatives in sight either at the government's highest level or even at the ministry level to address such a grave problem of the capital.

The city, with around two crore people, contributes at least 40 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, he said, adding that the country's survival was intertwined with that of the city. BWDB Chief Engineer Abul Kalam Azad and former adviser to a caretaker government and The New Nation Publisher Barrister Mainul Hossain also spoke as The New Nation Editor AM Mufazzal chaired the discussion.

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