

DMP launches app to receive militants' info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of possible rise of militancy, Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday launched a mobile application to gather information about criminals and militant activities.

DMP officials said using the app, Hello CT or Counter Terrorism unit, the dwellers can provide information, photos and videos to law enforcers without disclosing their identities.

The law enforcers will ensure their safety, they said.

At present only android phone users will be able to use the app while the DMP will gradually develop it for other cellphone users, they added.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal inaugurated the app at the DMP media centre.

Addressing as chief guest, the minister said they will be able to gather information about militant

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DNA tests for 9 Kalyanpur militants ordered

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered for DNA test of the nine militants killed during an overnight raid in the capital's Kalyanpur on July 26.

The court also ordered to arrange test of urine, stool, hair and clothes of the militants.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mazharul Islam gave the order after Inspector Zahangir Alam of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit moved a petition seeking the permission.

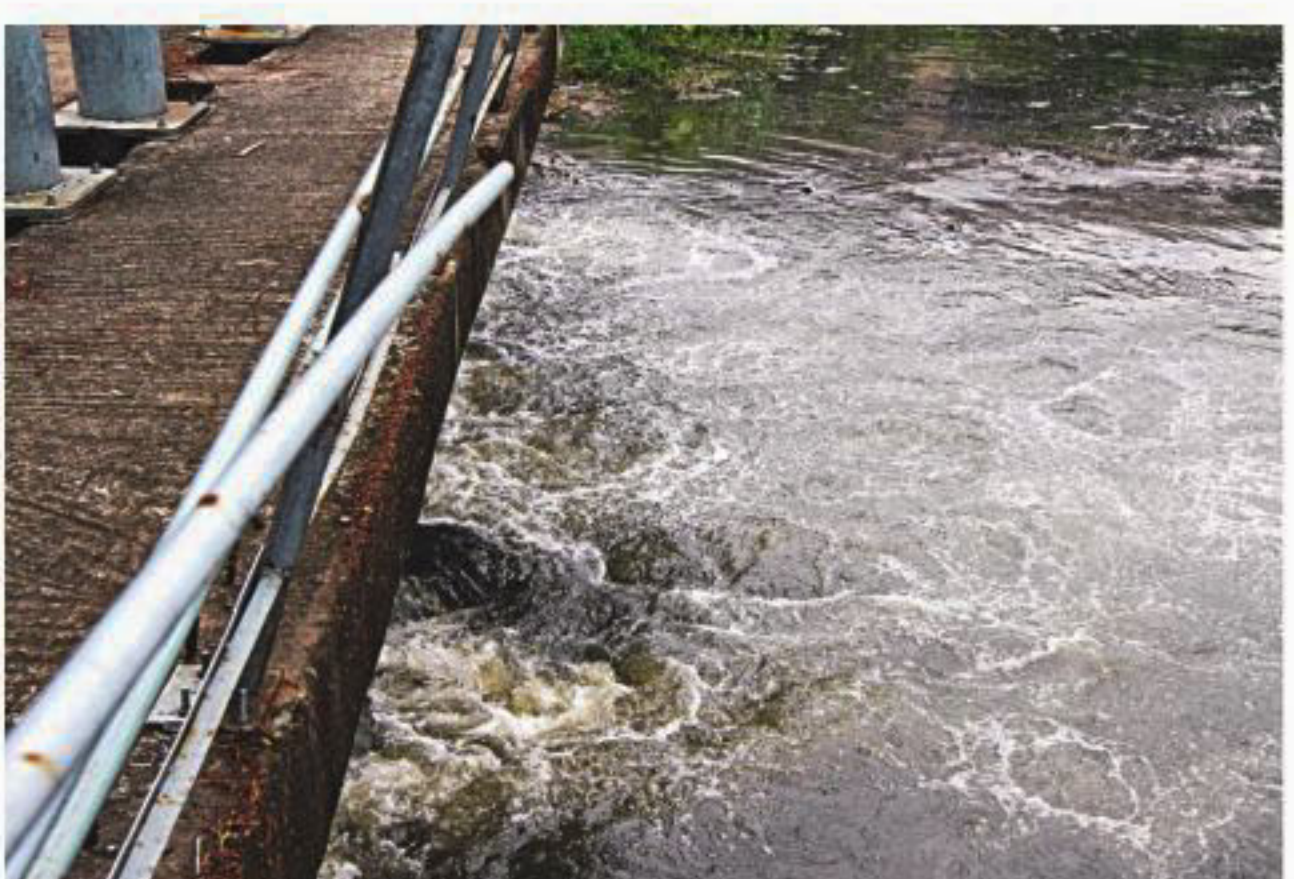
In the petition, the

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HATIRJHEEL: ADDING BEAUTY OR WHAT?



Hatirjheel was supposed to offer an eye soothing view and attract droves of visitors from across Dhaka, an overcrowded city with few open spaces like this. But the waterbody is failing in its purpose because of waste material floating on its surface and strong malodour rising off the dirty water. The photo was taken recently.



PHOTOS: SK ENAMUL HUQ

Hazaribagh tanners' delay in relocation irks PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed displeasure over the unnecessary delay in relocating tanneries from the capital's Hazaribagh area by their owners although the government has provided them with various facilities in Savar.

"We don't know why they're delaying, this is not fair," she said.

The prime minister was speaking at a programme at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh, marking World Environment Day.

She said the government has established a tannery estate in Savar for the relocation of tanneries from Hazaribagh. "We've also arranged waste treatment facilities there, but the tanners are making unnecessary delay," she said.

Although the government asked them several times to shift their factories to Savar, the owners are delaying resorting to tricks, the prime minister said.

Hasina said the quicker the tannery owners relocate their factories, the faster the environment of Hazaribagh and adjacent areas will improve.

The Supreme Court has ordered each of the 154 tannery owners in Hazaribagh to pay the government Tk 10,000 a day as fine for not relocating their factories to the tannery estate in Savar within the given time.

The court also ordered the government to donate 50 percent of the fine to National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh.

Earlier on June 28, the SC stayed till 17 July its earlier order that penalised 154 Hazaribagh-based tanneries for not relocating to the tannery estate

within the stipulated time after Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) filed an appeal with the SC seeking a stay on a High Court order.

On 16 June, the HC directed the 154 tannery owners to pay the fine of Tk 50,000 each per day to the government as the industries ministry submitted a report to the HC mentioning that a total of 154 tanneries were yet to be shifted to the designated site in Savar.

Following the report, the HC said each of the 154 tannery owners will have to pay Tk 50,000 as fine every day until relocation.

Earlier on April 1, the government suspended rawhide supply to Hazaribagh tanneries as the tanners had failed to meet the March 31 deadline, the latest in a line of several such

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9 pvt universities run 63 unapproved campuses: UGC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has found information 63 unapproved outer campuses of nine private universities.

Of those, Darul Ihsan University has the highest 29 outer campuses followed by America Bangladesh University which has 17 such campuses, which the government has already ordered to shut down.

UGC Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan came up with the revelation while replying to a query of reporters at a press conference on the overall activities of private universities in the commission's auditorium. After the conference, the UGC also gave a detailed list of outer campuses to the journalists.

The education ministry on July 26 ordered closure of Darul Ihsan University. It also asked all private universities to shut down illegal branch campuses in line with a High Court verdict.

Currently, there are 95 private universities in Bangladesh. Of them, 85 are running academic activities and have more

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It has been over two months since the construction work and installation of sewer lines in the capital's Ahmedbagh road started, but the authorities are yet to finish their work, forcing commuters to suffer for quite a long time. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

JP parliamentary team on visit to India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday said both the countries have the political will and mutual confidence to cooperate on security issues and further improve border management.

"Terrorism is our common challenge. India is with Bangladesh in its fight against terrorism," he said while addressing a Jatiya Party parliamentary delegation on the eve of its departure for a visit to India.

An eight-member delegation led by Fakhrul Imam will visit India at the invitation of its government. Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad and other senior JJP leaders were present

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BUILDING OF AHMEDBAGH ROAD

School kids suffer due to slow progress

HELEML ALAM

It takes only 15 minutes for schoolchildren to reach their school from home. Nevertheless, Mohammad Tanvir and Mohammad Kawsar, two fourth graders of a local school in the capital's Ahmedbagh, have been undergoing tremendous sufferings for quite a long time owing to the sorry state of the road they walk through.

"It is really painful for us to walk through the road as it is in a very sorry state because of its construction work. Walking in the road becomes a nightmare when it rains," said Tanvir.

"We cannot keep our school uniforms clean while walking on the road, especially during and after the rains," said Kawsar, a fellow of Tanvir.

Tasmia Begum, mother of Tanvir, said walking in the road was painful for her too, as she had to move through it several times a day to take her children to schools.

The road is of great importance as it connects the area to Mugda, Mayakanon,

Madinabagh and Basabo. It has been almost completely unusable for the last three months, said residents of the area.

Only a few rickshaws can somehow move through the road since Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is working to install sewer lines to reduce waterlogging in the area, they said.

Another resident, Md Monir Uddin, said digging of the road to install sewer lines started first in February and continued till March, and the work started again in June, which is still continuing.

He added that the installation of sewer lines was very important for the area to mitigate waterlogging problem, but the authorities were taking a too long time.

Monir also urged the authorities to expedite their work to reduce the people's sufferings.

Asked, Abdul Kader, executive engineer of zone-1, said they were looking into the matter and already gave instructions to the contractor concerned to speed up the work.

HC asks govt to report tiger organ trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to submit a report to it by September 1 on the actions taken on the reported allegations that the organs of tigers of the country's Sundarbans are smuggled into India.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain what steps were taken to protect the tigers of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh.

The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice JN Deb Choudhury passed the order and rule on a suo moto (of its own) move following a report published on the Bangla daily Prothom Alo on July 29, which stated that Interpol submitted two reports to the government

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ICT asks for probe report on 5 Netrakona suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit investigation report, if have any, in the case filed against five Netrakona men, who allegedly committed crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yesterday Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta submitted a progress report on the investigation in the case and prayed for more time to submit investigation report.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque allowed his prayer.

Of the five, Azizur Rahman, 65, Ashak Ali, 82, Md Shahnewaz, 88, and Ramjan Ali, 78, of Durgapur upazila of Netrakona are now in jail while fifth accused, Khalilur Rahman, is still on the run.

They were arrested on April 12, hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrants for the five.

Media must investigate youth derailment

Roundtable told in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's mass media must play a constructive role in line with the government and non-government agencies to combat the threats of terrorism and militancy, said journalists and politicians at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

Mentioning that the nation is going through a very critical time due to rise of threats of terrorism, they urged the media to focus more on the positive issues for the youth.

"Law enforcers' crackdown will continue and the Islamic scholars will talk about the danger of militancy in mosques. But the mass media has an important role. The journalists should not only cover the daily events, but also investigate why and how the youth are being diverted to the wrong paths," said Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.

The Weekly Ekota organised the roundtable on "Role of Media in the Fight against Terrorism," marking its 46th founding anniversary at Mukti Bhaban.

Referring the recent militant attacks, Bulbul said it is urgent to fight against militancy together.

"In political arena, one group interprets the situation only to stick to power while another group to come to power. But if we consider militancy as a major threat, we must combat it as a whole," he observed.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim said the issue of communalism and militancy is not the lone danger for the country, rather there are many other issues.

"If we want to save our country, we must fight against the multiple problems and their roots..." he added.

The recent Gulshan and Sholakia terror attacks have definitely spread a negative image of the country to the international community, the CPB president said, adding that it is essential to start massive reforms to establish a secular and democratic society.

Weekly Ekota Editor Prof AN Rasheda chaired the programme while economist Prof MM Akash moderated it and journalist Mahbub Alam presented the keynote paper.

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