

Another SUV seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence seized a sport utility vehicle (SUV) with unauthorised registration plates on Tuesday night from the capital's Banani area. The BMW X5, seized from the basement of a house owned by a businessman, is worth around Tk 3.5 crore, claimed Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate.

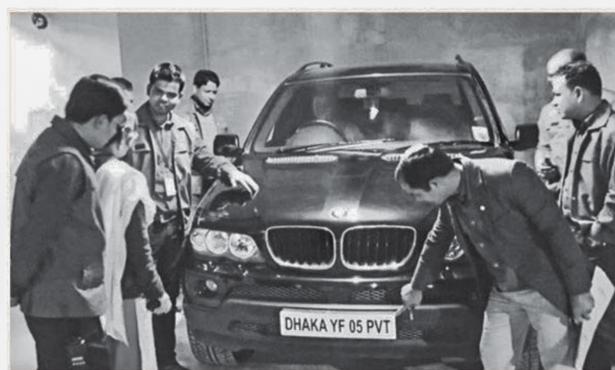
The Customs Intelligence investigators conducted the drive at the house based on information that a vehicle with a "strange number plate" was plying the city streets.

The licence plates on the front and back of the car bore the numbers "DHAKA YF 05 PVT", Moinul said, adding that they suspected the vehicle was originally registered in the UK and it was not registered in Bangladesh after it was brought for use in 2011.

The vehicle was brought in the country under the Carnet de Passages facility allows foreign tourists to bring in their vehicles without payment of customs duties for two months to one year. After the expiration of the validity, the owners must send their vehicles back to respective countries, he said.

A good number of luxury cars were brought into the country till 2012 when the government restricted the facilities. As a result, at least 105 such cars got stuck in Chittagong port, he added.

The Customs Intelligence over the past several months seized at least 44 cars without valid documentation.



Customs officials seize a sport utility vehicle (SUV) in the city's Banani area on Tuesday. COURTESY: CUSTOMS INTELLIGENCE

Target 8pc growth

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be achieved," he told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview at his official residence in the capital on December 23 last year.

The ministers in the seventies and eighties were not well-educated about development as opposed to the present-day scenario, he said.

"The whole thrust of the government is development. Now every minister is an economist, to some extent."

Citing fast development in the last nine years of the Awami League-led government, Muhith said, "I am very happy because the people of Bangladesh are now much happier."

They do not suffer from frustration, acute poverty and deprivation. Poverty is not a big problem anymore.

People in villages are living comfortably. All wear quite good clothes, which, he said, is a matter of great satisfaction.

The future of Bangladesh is bright, the minister said.

In response to a query, he acknowledged the rise in corruption alongside the economic development.

Asked why the government is not taking action against former Basic Bank chairman Abdul Hye Bachchu, he said he didn't want to say anything about it.

"I don't think that he will escape the due process of law." Bachchu cannot go abroad without an approval of the authorities, Muhith added.

Regarding the low progress in the strengthening of local governments, he said there was some progress but the structure had not changed yet.

"I mean curtailing some power of the MPs. This is very hard. You see, the MPs are very powerful. They don't want rivals in the constituencies."

The bureaucrat-turned politician, who is now 83-year old, said he could survive, despite some embarrassing comments in public, for two reasons -- one is the prime minister's confidence in him and his age.

President

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next course of action, president's press secretary Joyal Abedin told The Daily Star last night.

Sources at the Bangabhaban said that following the footsteps of his predecessor Zillur Rahman, President Hamid is likely to form a search committee in next week to form the EC as suggested by almost all 31 political parties.

The tenure of the incumbent EC led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad will expire next month. The new commission has to be neutral, acceptable and strong for holding the next general elections in 2019 in a free and fair manner, said political experts.

The BNP-led 20-party alliance has already warned that it will take to the streets if a non-partisan and acceptable EC is not formed.

Due to time constraints, the sources said, the president may not consider taking steps for a new law in line with the constitution to form the new EC.

During the talks with the president, all the parties have suggested enacting the law.

After the dialogues began on December 18, Hamid sat with 31 political parties who submitted to him around 200 proposals on formation of the EC and the election-time government.

During his talks with political parties, Hamid reiterated that there is no alternative to holding a free and fair election for upholding democracy.

He also said only dialogue can reduce the gaps between different political parties.

YESTERDAY'S DIALOGUE
President Hamid held dialogues with Bangladesh Islami Front, Bangladesh Muslim League and Zaker Party separately at the Bangabhaban.

The parties proposed that the president form a "neutral and acceptable" search committee to pick the EC members.

Emerging from the meeting, Mostafa Amir Faisal, who led a 10-member delegation of Zaker Party, told reporters that they have recommended that the president at first form a high-powered committee comprising one representative from each of the registered political parties. The body would be headed by the president.

"On consultation with the high-powered committee, the president will later form a neutral search committee," he added.

Currently, there are 41 registered political parties in the country. The EC has scrapped registration of Jamaat-e-Islami following a High Court order.

Hamid held dialogues with 30 of the 41 registered parties. Besides, he also held dialogues with a faction of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Sharif Ambia).

Govt shelves plan

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the secretariat.

The state minister referred to a World Bank forecast which says the oil price would continue to show upward trend in the next one year.

Muhith, however, said a final decision has not been taken yet.

In April last, Bangladesh cut the prices of octane and petrol by Tk 10 a litre and diesel and kerosene by Tk 3, with the intention of passing on the benefits of low prices in the international market to consumers.

At that time, the government had said the cut was part of a government plan to reduce the fuel prices in phases.

But the government drew criticism as the reduction in fuel oil prices left no

December.

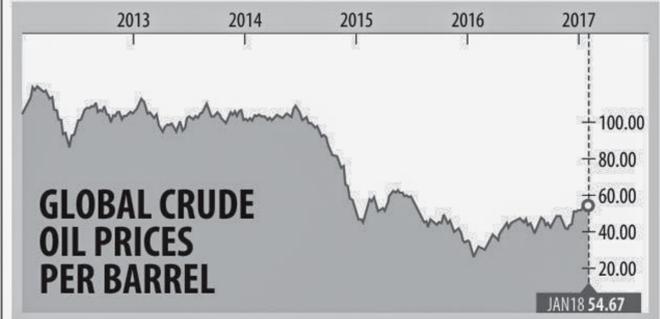
In December, Muhith had said the government may lower the prices of fuel oil by a "small margin" in January.

He, however, added: "Prices of fuel oil increased in the international market this December. So, the rate of reduction will not be much."

Despite the April cuts, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation still makes profit of Tk 23 to Tk 28 for per litre of petrol and octane and about Tk 16 for diesel and kerosene.

Thanks to the low oil prices in the international markets, the BPC started to make profits in 2015, which came after 14 years of continuing losses.

The state-run agency made a profit of Tk 4,126 crore in 2014-15. The profits



impact on local market as well as on the cost of living as it did not lower the transport fares or electricity prices.

Experts said Bangladesh has not benefited from the low oil prices in the international market.

If the prices were cut significantly, it would have positive impact on inflation as well as reduced transport costs, working as a blessing for the people.

The most direct benefit of a significant cut would have gone to farmers who use diesel run pumps to irrigate their crops as well as power plants.

The low oil prices also reduce costs for businesses that use oil products.

Besides, the government is losing a golden opportunity by not bringing in necessary policy reforms in the power sector and linking the local market with the international market, said Zahid Hussain, lead economist of the World Bank in Dhaka.

"Had we linked the local prices with the international market, we would not have to increase the prices at least at this moment," he said.

He said the current prices were set when the oil price was above \$100 a barrel. Although the price is showing upward trend it is unlikely that it would go over \$60 a barrel very soon.

India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan have adjusted their prices constantly to reflect the global market.

In November, the issue of fuel price cut was discussed at a meeting of the Fiscal Coordination Committee, which favoured another cut. Accordingly, the reduction was scheduled for

rose to about Tk 7,500 crore in 2015-16. In January last year, the Centre for Policy Dialogue, a think-tank, said a 10-per cent cut in petroleum prices would lead to a rise in both the gross domestic product and private investment by about 0.3 per cent.

The think-tank, in this January, said inflation would come down by 0.2 percentage points. Export, on the other hand, may increase 0.4 per cent.

It said households are likely to be benefitted, with a 0.6 per cent rise in consumption on an average, while firms' income may increase by the same margin. Consumption of households in rural areas is expected to increase by 0.7 per cent.

This economy-wide impact assessment implies that there is a case for revising downward the fuel prices, the CPD said. However, the government savings may deplete 0.4 percentage points.

In October, the World Bank raised its 2017 forecast for crude oil prices to \$55 per barrel from \$53 per barrel as members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries prepare to limit production after a long period of unrestrained output.

The International Monetary Fund also expects the average oil price to grow by 19.9 per cent in 2017 in comparison with the average indicator of 2016, according to a report of Russian news agency TASS on Monday.

The assumed oil price based on futures markets, as of December 6, 2016, is \$51.2 per barrel in 2017 and \$53.1 in 2018.

Suicide bomb

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pro-government militia members, under the terms of the peace deal.

Mali's north fell under the control of Tuareg-led rebels and jihadist groups linked to al-Qaeda in 2012. The Islamists sidelined the rebels to take sole control.

Although they were largely ousted by a French-led military operation in January 2013, implementation of the peace accord has been piecemeal with insurgents still active across large parts of the region.

The joint patrols, which also include regular Malian army troops, are supposed to help prepare for the reorganisation of the army.

President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita ordered three days of national mourning following the attack, the worst in the country in recent years.

Defence Minister Abdoulaye Idrissa Maiga was to fly to Gao later Wednesday.

'We were in the dark'

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the Bangla textbooks published by NCTB for class 1 to X for this academic year.

"Against such backdrop, we are stating for all, including students, teachers and guardians that we were kept in the dark about the changes made in the textbooks."

The signatories of the statement include Prof Hayat Mahmud, Prof Niranjana Adhikari, Prof Mahbubul Haque, Prof Masuduzzaman, Prof Bishwajit Ghosh, Prof Syed Azizul Haque, Prof Shoaib Jibran, Prof Shafiqul Alam, Prof Daniul Haque, Prof Shyamali Akbar, Prof Nurjahan Begum, Prof Rafiqullah Khan and Prof Soumitra Shekhar.

They were in different panels responsible for editing and compiling the textbooks.

Hefajat and Bangladesh Awami Olema League have been demanding exclusion of some of the poems written by "Hindus and atheists".

Many alleged that some poems, including "Boi (book)" written by Humayun Azad, and prose have been dropped from Bangla textbooks for different classes to fulfill the demand of the two organisations.

NCTB member (primary curriculum) Dr Mohammad Abdul Mannan earlier told The Daily Star the textbook editors and writers are not usually informed when small corrections are made in those.

"But whenever we make major changes, we inform them."

Eminent citizens and different organisations strongly condemned the anomalies in textbooks and demanded immediate withdrawal of the "error-ridden textbooks".

Following criticism, the education ministry made NCTB Chief Editor Pritish Kumar Sarkar and its senior expert Lana Humayra Khan officer on special duty (OSD), a post regarded as a punishment.

Vandalism in Ctg court

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people, including a Rohingya woman named Rozia, to go to Saudi Arabia with fake Umrah visas.

Around 5:30pm, police produced the two accused -- Jamal Hossain and his wife Yasmin Akhter -- before the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shadat Hossain Bhuiyan and sought a five-day remand for each of them.

As the court rejected their bail prayer, the lawyers started screaming, said a court police, seeking anonymity.

At that time, the judge left the courtroom hurriedly and went to his chamber.

The agitating lawyers then vandalised the nameplate of the judge, windows of his chamber and ransacked the files at the courtroom, said police.

They also scuffled with police who were trying to pacify them, they said.

Around 300 lawyers then started demonstrating in front of the court and tried to snatch cameras and mobile phones from journalists.

Later, Chittagong District Bar Association leaders and senior lawyers

informed the chief metropolitan magistrate about the incident.

Around 6:45pm, another hearing was held at the court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate-1.

The judge granted the bail prayer of the accused in custody of the Bar Association's president and secretary after accepting a Tk 1,000 bail bond from each, said Bar Association President Kafil Uddin Chowdhury.

"In the First Information Report, names of the lawyer and his wife were not mentioned. But when a forwarding report was submitted to the court, their names were included and a five-day remand for each was sought," said Kafil.

But he claimed lawyers were not involved in the vandalism.

"These kinds of activities are not acceptable," he said.

Dismissing the allegation of lawyers' involvement in the vandalism, Iftekar Saimul Chowdhury, former general secretary of the Bar Association, said, "People from different backgrounds come to the court every day. We do not know who carried out the vandalism."

Good cop gets

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left at least four people dead and many others injured.

The girl is now quite well after taking treatment at Ramu Health Complex and Chittagong Medial College Hospital.

Apart from Sher Ali, 40 other police and Rab officials have been selected for the PPM awards.

Besides, 41 police and Rab officials have been selected for PPM Sheba (Service) Award, 26 for Bangladesh Police Medal (BPM) and 24 for BPM Sheba (Service) Award in recognition of their courageous deeds, outstanding performances in investigation and curbing criminal offences and their honesty and discipline.

Four police officials who sacrificed their lives in last year's July 1 Gulshan café attack and July 7 attack in Sholakia eid congregation have been posthu-

mously selected for the BPM Award.

They are Rabiul Karim, former senior assistant commissioner of DB (North Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Salahuddin Khan, former officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, and constables Jahurul Islam and Ansarul Haque of Kishoreganj district police.

Most of the police and Rab officials who have dealt with terrorist and militant activities have been selected for the awards this year.

Sher Ali expressed his happiness and gratitude for being selected for the PPM Award. He told The Daily Star that everyone should come forward to help the people in distress.

The society would be a better place to live in if people became humane, he added.

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUARY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 05 OF 2017
IN THE MATTER OF

Base Technologies Limited Petitioner
-VERSUS-
The Registrar Joint Stock Companies and Firms,
TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawranbazar, Dhaka 1215 Respondent

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 12 read with section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 for confirmation of the amendment of the object clauses of Memorandum of Association was filed on behalf of the petitioner before the Hon'ble High Court of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing Mr. Justice Md. Rezaul Hasan was pleased to admit the application vide an order dated 09.01.2017. The Hon'ble High Court was further pleased to fix the matter for appearance on 30.01.2017.

Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on or before the date so fixed.

Yours faithfully,
Kazi Ershadul Alam
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Ltd. (Milk Vita)
Head Office: Dugdha Bhaban, 139-140, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka.

Corrigendum Notice (3rd)

Memo No: MU/PDPR/PMP-85(3)/2016/29 Dated: 18.01.2017
The tender invitation no. MU/PDPR/PMP-85(3)/2016/302 dated: 16.10.2016 tender package no. GD-1 for "Establishment of Super Instant Powder Milk Plant at Baghabarighat, Sirajgonj" (Turnkey basis), published on "The Daily Star" & "The Daily Ittefaq" on 18.10.2016 is hereby amended (3rd time) as follows:

- Tender last selling date : **19.02.2017** instead of existing.
- The deadline for Submission of Tender is : **20/02/2017** instead of existing.
- The tender opening shall take place at : **20/02/2017** instead of existing.

| Sl no. | Section | Page | Instead of | Should be |
|--------|-------------|------|---|---|
| 1. | Section 6 | 86 | 907 Nitrogen Generation Plant 100 m ³ /hr-1 unit | 907 Nitrogen Generation Plant(Gas) 50 m ³ /hr-1 unit Liquid Nitrogen Plant 25LPH-1 unit |
| 2. | Tech. Spec. | 71 | 907 Nitrogen plant Capacity: 20Nm ³ /H | 907 Nitrogen plant Capacity (Gas): 50Nm³/H Capacity (Liquid): 25LPH |
| 3. | do | 72 | High pressure compressor to compressed and fill in cylinder | High pressure compressor to compressed and fill in cylinder with supply of 05nos. High Pressure Cylinder |
| 4. | do | 88 | 1101 Waste Water Treatment Plant (ETP) | 1101 Waste Water Treatment Plant (ETP) "Waste Water Sample Test Report: PH- 11.94, TDS- 9611 mg/L, TSS- 985 mg/L, BOD- 3173.8 mg/L, COD- 7741 mg/L" will be included. |

Note : All other terms & conditions of tender documents shall remain unchanged.

Signed/-
Md. Mustafizur Rahman
DGM (PDPR) &
Project Director

EDCL **ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh

Ref No: EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/PME/2016/031 Date: 18 January, 2017

Amendment of Tender Notice

(Amendment No -1)

Project Title : Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj
Tender Name : Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning, Qualification and Validation of Packaging Machinery & Equipment.

Ref. No : EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/PME/2016/24 Dated : 05 December, 2016

| Notice Sl. No | Subject to be Amended | Existing as | Shall be Amended as |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 14 | Tender Last Selling Date and Time | 19 January, 2017, Time : 05:00 PM (Local Time) | 29 January, 2017 at 05:00 PM (Local Time) |
| 15 | Tender Closing Date and Time | 23 January, 2017, Time : 03:00 PM (Local Time) | 02 February, 2017 at 03:00 PM (Local Time) |
| 16 | Tender Opening Date and Time | 23 January, 2017, Time : 03:30 PM (Local Time) | 02 February, 2017 at 03:30 PM (Local Time) |

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

(Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir)
Project Director
Establishment of Essential Drugs Company
Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj