

Govt to install tools for constant watch

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A monitoring centre would be set up at the telecommunication directorate in Tejgaon under Posts and Telecommunications Division. The directorate would control the system and act on behalf of the government, said officials concerned.

All international internet gateways would be connected to this network and a team would monitor online traffic round-the-clock.

The system would also identify users of virtual private networks (VPN), project documents show.

After the Ecne meeting at the National Economic Council auditorium chaired by the prime minister, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that modern equipment would be purchased under the project and manpower would be trained.

Kamal said cyber crime was a problem not only for Bangladesh, but also for countries across the globe.

According to the planning ministry project documents, in many countries,

militants and terrorists have been carrying out destructive activities abusing internet technology. Pornography and other objectionable contents were being shown and youths were being pushed towards destruction.

The project proposal said implementation of the project was urgent to control access to harmful websites.

The equipment would prevent users from browsing any website unauthorised or prohibited in the country, and also block contents that were not "suitable" for Bangladesh or take such contents down within minutes, the documents read.

"It will also help law enforcement agencies monitor internet activities of identified criminals and thus prevent crimes," said an official of the telecommunication directorate.

However, Mostafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, said the project would intrude into people's private lives and create opportunities for abuse.

"In this digital life, we need digital security. But at the same time people's freedom of speech and freedom of expression need to be upheld," he said.

Jabbar, also a member of the Digital Bangladesh Taskforce headed by the prime minister, said the government needs to ensure people's privacy as well as their security.

According to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission data, around 12,50 crore people use mobile phones in the country and six crore use the internet. Very soon the number of internet users would be similar to the number of mobile phone users due to steps taken by various government agencies.

The project proposal had been placed before the Ecne last year but it was sent back for revisions. The revised proposal was placed before the Ecne yesterday.

The Ecne yesterday approved 12 new and revised projects, involving Tk 10,148 crore. Of the amount, Tk 3,600 crore would be from donors.

35 senior bureaucrats reshuffled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday reshuffled 35 senior bureaucrats, including Mohammad Iqbal, chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Cooperation, in the civil administration.

Additional Secretary Iqbal was made managing director of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Twenty seven other additional secretaries have been reshuffled.

The health and family welfare ministry was split into two sections with two secretaries. Existing secretary Md Sirazul Islam has been given the task of the health, education and family planning division while Serajul Huq Khan, secretary of science and technology ministry, has been made secretary to health care division.

Five joint secretaries have been transferred.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued gazette notifications to these effects.

Meanwhile, the home ministry yesterday reshuffled three DIGs of Bangladesh Police in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna.

Chittagong range DIG Shafiqul Islam has been made DIG Dhaka, Khulna range DIG SM Monir-uz-Zaman has replaced Islam in Chittagong and Additional Police Commissioner of DMP Dinar Ahmed has been made DIG Khulna range, according to a home ministry notification. Earlier on Monday, the ministry brought changes in four DIG positions.

No major

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The team, in its report, also recommended not using electronic items like water heater in the office to avoid similar accidents in future, added the sources.

Around 9:30pm on March 23, a fire broke out on the 13th floor of the BB headquarters in the city's Motijheel, but was doused after an hour's efforts.

The floor housed the foreign exchange policy department, which is responsible for formulating and implementing policies related to foreign exchange.

No one was hurt in the flame.

On information, 12 firefighting units rushed to the spot and doused the flames.

BB and Fire Service and Civil Defence formed two separate committees immediately after the incident.

The fire service formed a five-member team to find out the cause of the fire. It was asked to submit its report in five working days.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Samarendra Nath Biswas, head of the committee, said the fire may have originated from an electric short circuit.

"We are conducting the probe. We suspect that the fire originated from electric short circuit," he told The Daily Star over phone.

The probe body members visited the floor of the building and quizzed some bank officials yesterday, said Samarendra, a deputy director of the fire service.

Asked whether they have found negligence behind maintenance of electric lines, he said they were investigating into it.

Use of banned

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shrimp but when fishers discard the other species that fall foul of their nets.

Dr Dilip Kumar Datta, an environmental science professor from Khulna University estimates that to collect a single juvenile shrimp involves destroying on average around 200 fish fry and over 1,000 other, often microscopic, life forms upon which fish rely for food. "Whole species are at risk of entirely disappearing from the local environment through unplanned fishing," he says.

According to one police officer of Chalna police station who did not wish to be identified, the tidal zones of canals, channels and shoals across the Shela, Pashur and Balasher Rivers of the eastern Sundarbans as well as the Shibsha River to the west are regularly littered with hundreds of thousands of nets as people of all ages engage in illegal fishing for juvenile shrimp.

Local NGO Rupantar reports about six lakh people, mostly women and children, partake in the activity. The zonal commander of the Coast Guard's west zone, Mehadi Masud, meanwhile, says fishers and fish traders hide their motor boats in narrow channels and inlets, making them difficult to find.

But, he says, around 80 crore taka worth of current nets have been seized in the course of the coast guard's daily drive against illegal fishing.

"There are so many people involved in this activity," says Khulna district's fisheries officer, Profullah Kumar Sarker. "It's tough to stop them. But we are working towards increasing community awareness of the problem."

The defence counsel in his bail petition said his client "was not involved in any offences stated in the formal charges submitted by the prosecution" and if he got bail, he would not misuse it.

But Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon vehemently opposed the bail prayer saying they had already pressed charges against the two accused.

As this correspondent asked Mozammel Haque about his client's whereabouts since October 31, 2015, the lawyer said, "I do not know. He approached me and I appeared on behalf of him at the tribunal."

As many as 75 war crimes convicts and accused were on the run as of February 23 this year, according to the tribunal's investigation agency.

Court orders

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compound of the official residence of Justice Khairul on Hare Road around 8:30pm on November 18, 2010.

The following day, Jafar Ali, a sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station, filed the case.

He said he had conducted raids in the neighbourhood of the CJ's residence and appointed an undercover agent to arrest the offenders.

He learnt from the agent that Alal, Paban, Sohel, Asim and Tuku were seen in Ramna Park, Bailey Road, Shahbagh, Nayapaltan and Kakrail areas in the evening of November 18, the complaint read.

The suspects along with their party men might have hatched a conspiracy to explode crude bombs and mount pressure on judges ahead of the hearing of the case regarding Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence scheduled for November 29, 2010, according to the complaint.

SI MA Jalil of the police station was appointed as the investigation officer of the case. Later, the case was transferred to the Detective Branch of police, and SI Ashraful Islam of DB (south division) was appointed as the IO of the case on December 18, 2010.

The IO was changed again in July 2012. Mumin Khan, an SI working in the bomb disposal unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, was given the charge.

In his final report submitted to the court on June 18, 2016, Mumin said accused Nasir Uddin Asim was abroad on the day of the incident and he did

the nine, including four teachers and four students, were held from Sat Rasta intersection of Tejgaon Industrial area in the capital on Monday.

Of the arrestees, four teachers are Mozaffar Hossain, principal of Gazirhat AM High School in Ashulia, Atikul Islam, mathematics teacher of the school, Jahangir Alam, mathematics teacher of Srishti Central School and College in Gazipur's Tongi, and Hamidur Rahman Tuhin, teacher of Konia Coaching Centre in Tongi.

The arrested students are Arif Hossain Akash, Saidur Rahman, Rakib Hossain and Tanvir Hossain. The other arrestee is Abdul Majid, an office assistant of Gazirhat AM High School.

Leader of the group, Mozaffar, whose school had an examination centre, took snaps of the questions with his mobile phone, while Atikul solved those and uploaded the answers on their secret Facebook group via the admin, one GM Shagor, police said.

They used to take Tk 500 to Tk 5,000 from each person who took their answers. The group received the money through mobile money transfer service.

Police also recovered question paper screenshots of SSC, HSC and JSC exams which were held in 2016 and 2017 and seized nine mobile phones from their possession.

On February 14, detectives arrested six polytechnic and diploma students, while eight more, including a school teacher, of a similar group were arrested in connection with leaking question papers on March 2.

According to detectives, question papers may be leaked in three phases -- during preparation, during printing in the press, and during distribution before the exams.

Headmaster

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They then took him to the bazar where Uttam was attacked along with the two women who had come to his aid from their nearby residence, said the male victims.

All of them were taken to Jhalakati Sadar Police Station on the vehicle from where police sent them to the sadar hospital.

Latifur and Uttam claimed that they had wanted the election to be held yesterday instead of giving in to the chairman's demand of appointing an unelected president of his liking.

Locals at the bazar said Latifur and Uttam had got a parent of a student into competing for the president post.

The chairman, Sultan Hossain Khan, however claimed that locals at the bazar beat up the four upon a rumour that they had killed him.

He also claimed to have a recording of Latifur and Uttam announcing at the bazar of their intent to kill him.

The police station's Officer-in-Charge Mahe Alam repeated Sultan's claim, saying legal steps would be taken once a complaint was filed.

An accused

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Earlier on October 1, 2015, the tribunal issued an arrest warrant against Sattar and seven others following a petition submitted by the prosecution.

Police arrested five of them including Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan and his son the same day.

Since then the other three accused were on the run.

On February 16, the tribunal directed its registrar's office to publish an advertisement in two national dailies asking the three fugitives to appear before it within two weeks.

Sattar's lawyer Mozammel Haque Bhuiyan claimed as soon as his client had learned about the case filed against him, he decided to surrender before the court.

The defence counsel in his bail petition said his client "was not involved in any offences stated in the formal charges submitted by the prosecution" and if he got bail, he would not misuse it.

But Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon vehemently opposed the bail prayer saying they had already pressed charges against the two accused.

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THE UNB obtained a copy of the findings, officially termed concluding observations, from Geneva.

The committee expressed concern that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) may not have a broad enough mandate to investigate all alleged human rights violations, including those involving law enforcers.

It also said the NHRC lacked sufficient financial and human resources to fulfill its mandate.

The State party should broaden the mandate of the NHRC and allow it to investigate all alleged human rights violations," the document reads.

It should also provide the NHRC with sufficient financial and human resources to allow it to impartially and independently fulfill its mandate.

On early marriage, the UN committee said the State party should amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act to maintain the legal minimum age of marriage for girls at 18 years, in accordance with international norms, without any exceptions.

It recommended that Bangladesh should adopt domestic legislation enabling the implementation of all rights under the Covenant.

The committee called upon the State party to raise awareness about the rights in the Covenant and domestic law giving effect to these rights among judges, lawyers and prosecutors to ensure that rights guaranteed in the Covenant were upheld by courts.

It welcomed the following legislative and institutional measures taken by the State party since the entry into force of the Covenant in 2000.

These are adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act, 2010, the National Women Development Policy 2011, especially the framework for efforts to promote women's participation in decision-making positions, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act, 2013 and the Torture and Custodial Death Prevention Act, 2013.

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