Dhaka streets to come under electronic traffic surveillance

100 cameras to be placed across 28km stretch

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Traffic police are going for centralised and remote monitoring of traffic rule violations in the capital from June, with around 100 specialised closed-circuit cameras being installed on 28km stretch of roads between Abdullahpur of Uttara and Kajla of Jatrabari.

After the system is in place, if any vehicle breaks traffic rules at any point under surveillance, traffic police personnel would not chase or stop it, but a case would be filed based on the CCTV footage evidence.

Fine slips would reach the violators' doorsteps by mail for flouting rules like crossing stop line, blocking left lane, illegal parking on the road, collecting and dropping passengers haphazardly or riding motorcycles without helmets, said officials of DMP's traffic department.

The high-powered sophisticated closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras are now being installed under a project titled "Modernization of CCTV Surveillance System of Dhaka Metropolitan Police".

If the project is successful, CCTV cameras will also be installed in other city roads like Mirpur Road and Pragati Sarani, DMP sources added.

The 28-kilometre stretch covers Mohakhali, Bijoy Sarani, Hotel InterContinental intersection. From there, it will take two roads -- Hare Road and Shahbagh -- and again join at Matshya Bhaban, said Sharmin Afroz, systems analyst of the DMP.

She further said then it will go via High Court Mazar road intersection, Zero Point, Sergeant Ahad Police Box and then go to Kajla through Hanif Flyover.

"Once any vehicle enters the road from any point, it will come under constant video surveillance until it leaves the road," said Joint Commissioner (Traffic-North) of DMP, Mosleh Uddin Ahmed.

After the cameras are installed, they will be connected to DMP's Central Command and Control Centre in the capital's Abdul Gani Road.

As per prior command, registration numbers of vehicles violating rules will be saved. Traffic policemen will check those and slap fines considering the degree of rule violations, said the joint commissioner.

Three traffic policemen from the existing manpower of DMP's traffic department will do the job, while six to seven technical support staff will be recruited.

By May 31, installation of camera poles at all 37 points is expected to be completed, with poles already set up at 12 places, Mosleh Uddin told The Daily Star recently. By this time, development of necessary software will also be completed, he added.

No one will be spared for violating rules even at night, as CCTV surveillance will be on the road round the clock. At the moment, no traffic police personnel are on duty from midnight till morning, and instances of traffic rule violations are common.

Fiber@Home Ltd, a private telecommunication transmission network operator, is supplying the cameras and installing them under its corporate social responsibility. The project would cost the company roughly Tk 1.5 crore, said officials in the company and police.

"The project is mainly aimed at implementing traffic rules and bringing rule-violators to book," said Mosleh Uddin.

"If necessary, the cameras will also be used for crime control," said the official, who is supervising the project. "We are hopeful of starting operation of the CCTV cameras from June 1," he added.

Last year, 14,37,065 cases were filed for traffic rule violations in Dhaka, with Tk 86.09 crore collected in fines.

Although CCTV cameras for traffic surveillance is new, such cameras for monitoring crime is not. There are around 4,400 CCTV cameras in the city, mainly installed with funds from businesses and communities.

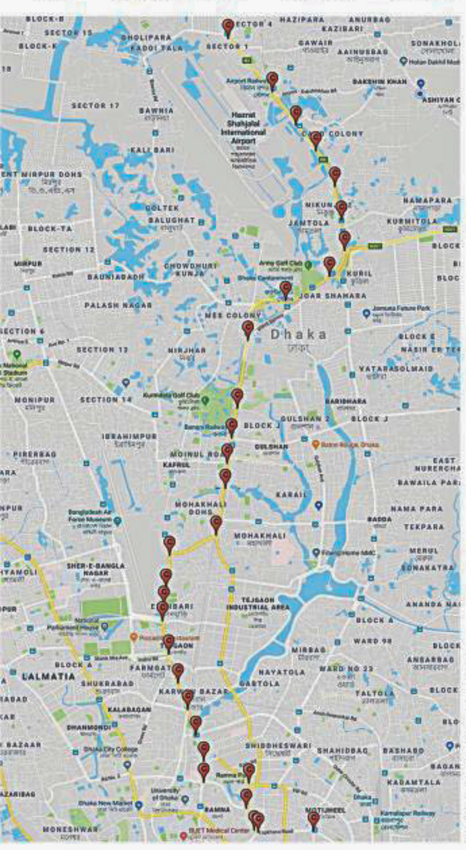

IMAGE: COLLECTED

The CCTV cameras will be placed on this route from Abdullahpur to Jatrabari.

AIR POLLUTION

HC bins Dhaka city corporations' report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that Dhaka city corporation authorities are negligent in curbing pollution and mosquito menace in the capital.

Chief executive officers of Dhaka South City Corporation Mustafizur Rahman and North City Corporation Md Abdul Hye appeared before the court as per its May 5 order, and submitted two separate reports to the HC on the steps to prevent air pollution in the city.

The court said their reports are ambiguous and dissatisfactory, and ordered them to submit reports further specifying the measures they have taken to this effect in detail to the court in a month. It also set June 26 for passing further order on this issue.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader, while hearing a rule issued earlier by the court for preventing pollution in Dhaka city, also expressed dissatisfaction on the two halves of city corporation for not taking effective steps in curbing pollution and mosquito proliferation. It said mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and chikungunya will increase during the upcoming rainy session, if proper measures are not taken right now.

The court also sought separate specific and detailed reports on effective steps taken to curb pollution and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Obaidul Quader returns home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader returned to Dhaka yesterday after receiving medical treatment in Singapore for over two months.

A Biman Bangladesh flight carrying Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at around 6pm, said Abu Naser, deputy principal officer at Road Transport and Bridges Ministry.

AL joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Abdur Rahman and other central leaders received Quader with flowers at the airport.

Railways minister Nurul Islam Sujan, state minister for shipping and AL organising secretary Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, another AL organising secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim and others were also present.

Quader expressed his gratitude to countrymen and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who prayed for his recovery.

"Our prime minister is truly the mother of humanity. I'm indebted to her," he said, adding, "I'm grateful to all the countrymen who have prayed for me".

He also thanked party men who rushed to the hospital and prayed for him.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

On March 3, Quader was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's coronary care unit. Later, he was diagnosed with three blocks in his coronary arteries.

The next day, a Mount Elizabeth Hospital air ambulance flew Quader to Singapore for better treatment as advised by doctors, including renowned Indian cardiologist Devi Shetty.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Rights groups demand inclusive budget for indigenous people

Rashed Khan Menon, Shaheen Anam, Sanjeeb Drong and Pallab Chakma, among others, spoke at the roundtable. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous community leaders yesterday demanded that the government allocate sector- and ministry-wise budget for their communities in the upcoming national budget for their wellbeing and development.

There should be specific allocation for indigenous people in all ministries and departments' budgets, and indigenous people themselves should be involved, with policy in place, for their proper implementation, they said at a roundtable.

Development organisations Kapaeeng Foundation and Manusher Jonno Foundation jointly arranged the roundtable on "Demand for specific and inclusive budget for indigenous people" at The Daily Star Centre.

Speakers demanded formation of a separate ministry for indigenous people living in the plains.

There should be clear statement on indigenous people in the budget speech, count of appropriate number of indigenous population and budget allocation based on the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Peers issue 24hr ultimatum for Henry Sawpon's release

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nipironer Biruddhe Shahbagh, a platform of writers, artists, and journalists, yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum demanding unconditional release of poet Henry Sawpon and lawyer Imtiaz Mahmud.

Otherwise, they will go for an indefinite sit-in from 4pm tomorrow at Shahbagh intersection.

Robin Ahsan, convener of the platform, gave the ultimatum at a human chain in front of the national museum, demanding unconditional release of the duo detained under Digital Security act.

They also demanded the abolishment of this act.

Robin Ahsan said, "Law and administration of Bangladesh are going in reverse. After getting death threat Henry Sawpon went to law enforcement agency seeking security. But some plain-clothes police officials picked him up from his house in the name of providing security."

"Henry stayed in Barishal as he loved his birth place, whereas, we all shifted to Dhaka in hope of a better life. He has always written against communalism," he added.

Robin urged the government to release Henry and all other detained under Digital Security Act, unconditionally.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

HEALTH HACK

Sehri recommendations: Sehri is an important part of the Ramadan routine. That is why we have to make the best of it.

1. Eat foods high in water content like fruits and vegetables. That way you do not have to force yourself to drink extra water.

2. Avoid salty foods as excess salt may lead to dehydration.

3. Eat foods that contain high fibre and complex carbohydrates. The body digests these at a slower rate, so you will feel full for a longer time.

4. Do not eat heavy foods. Doing so before going to sleep may lead to indigestion and bloating.

EID RUSH

Advance train tickets to be sold at five spots for first time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will start selling advance train tickets ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr on May 22 and for the first time, tickets will be sold at five different places in the city.

Advance tickets are usually sold only at Kamalapur Railway Station, and many holidaymakers spend sleepless nights at the station to get their hands on the tickets.

But this year, tickets will be sold at different locations to ease the ticket-buying process and prevent excruciatingly long queues, said Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday.

The minister was briefing the media at Rail Bhaban on BR's preparation ahead of Eid rush. "We have taken several decisions and made preparations so that homebound people's journey is safe and smooth," he added.

He said tickets for all intercity trains to the country's western destinations will be sold from Kamalapur Railway Station while tickets to Chattogram and Noakhali will be sold from Airport Railway Station.

Holidaymakers will have to buy their tickets for Mymensingh and Jamalpur from Tejgaon Station. Tickets for Netrakona-bound Mohonganj and Haor Express will be sold from Banani Station, the minister said.

Tickets to Sylhet and Kishoreganj will be sold from Old Rail Bhaban in Fulbaria area, he added.

Advance tickets for intercity trains for travelling on May 31 and June 1, 2, 3, 4 would be sold on May 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 respectively, the railways minister said.

This year, 50 percent tickets will be sold online. One person can buy up to four tickets at a time, the minister said.

He said BR will operate eight special trains on different

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

PHOTO OF THE DAY

AMRAN HOSSAIN

With summer in full blaze, juicy seasonal fruits have started to hit the markets, albeit with a rather steep price tag that usually comes with the early varieties. However, the all-too perfect yellow-ochre hue of these mangoes could make one question whether these were ripened naturally. The photo was taken in front of Bangabandhu National Stadium in Gulistan.

DHAKA TODAY

FAIR
Eid Shopping Festival–2019
Organiser: SAM's Event
Venue: Amari Dhaka
Time: 10am

THEATRE
Jononi Shahoshika
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7:30pm

HUMAN CHAIN
Dhaner Daam Briddhir Dabi
Venue: TSC, DU
Time: 3:30pm

CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION
Sanctity by Saifullah Safa
Venue: EMK Center
Time: 9:30am

WORKSHOP
Fact-Checking: Basic Tools and Applications
Organiser: Fact Watch
Venue: Ulab Permanent Campus
Time: 11am

Newborn left in hospital toilet doing well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are trying to find the guardians of a newborn baby girl, who was found abandoned on Tuesday in a toilet of Dhaka Shishu Hospital in Dhaka.

After finding the abandoned baby at noon, the hospital authorities informed police and filed a general diary (GD) with Bijoynagar Police Station, Officer-in-Charge Nur-e Alam told The Daily Star.

Doctors have examined the baby and she is healthy, said Abdul Hakim, public relations officer of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Police are trying to find out who abandoned the baby, by going through CCTV footage of the hospital, he said.

"The baby was abandoned in a toilet of Block-C in the hospital. This block is for outdoor patients, and therefore is open for everyone, Hakim said.

The hospital authorities also went through CCTV footages and found some suspects, but their faces are not clear, he said.

The baby is currently kept in cabin-301 under the hospital's care, he said adding that if police fail to find the guardians then she would be handed over to the Department of Social Services for her rehabilitation.

RAMADAN TIPS

Fasting and Common Cold

Ramadan is a particularly difficult time to suffer from many of the contagious upper respiratory infections. Lifestyle adaptations may result in increased cases of colds particularly during Ramadan, as most prefer taking excessive amounts of very cold drinks and beverages during iftar. Further dehydration during fasting, exacerbates the cruelty of cold. Resting, eating a good diet, avoiding stress and drinking a lot of water are the common therapies for these problems. Taking painkillers such as paracetamol or some decongestant and fluids during non-fasting hours might be helpful.

Prof. Dr. Taimor Nawaz
Consultant, Internal Medicine & Infectious Disease

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