

No militant threat: home minister

DMP issues traffic guideline for Mourning Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no threat of militant attack centring National Mourning Day today, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday.

Though there is no such threat, security forces and intelligence agencies are on high alert and have taken strong measures so that no quarter can create any kind of untoward situation, he said.

The home minister was speaking at programme in the capital's Dhanmondi-32. "We are remaining alert so that no such attack can be carried out," he added.

Meanwhile at a press briefing, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said strong security measures have been taken across the capital marking the day.

The nation will observe the day with due respect and solemnity, marking 44th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The president, prime minister, dignitaries and people from all strata of life will pay homage to Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on Dhanmondi Road-32.

The DMP commissioner said the memorial museum and Banani graveyard will be under CCTV surveillance and a dog squad of DMP will sweep the areas. People coming to Dhanmondi-32

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

11 dead and 1,800 new patients hospitalised over last 4 days



A long queue of family members waiting for blood test reports of their loved ones at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HELEMI ALAM

At least 11 people died of dengue fever over the last four days in Dhaka, Cumilla, Pabna, Laxmipur, Mymensingh, Lalmonirhat, Faridpur and Khulna -- making the unofficial death toll 90.

However, the government has so far confirmed 40 deaths from dengue.

A total of 1,800 new patients -- including 755 in Dhaka city -- infected with the mosquito-borne disease were admitted to different hospitals across the country in 24 hours, till 8am yesterday, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In the latest tally, total number of dengue patients are 46,351 -- of

whom 7,869 are currently admitted in hospitals across the country.

In the last three days 5,173 were admitted to hospitals across the country -- of whom 2,977 were in Dhaka and 2,196 were outside the city, according to DGHS.

Though the number of patients slightly decreased in the last couple of days, experts fear that dengue cases might see a rise with holidaymakers returning home from outside Dhaka after the Eid vacation, if necessary measures are not taken.

"Mosquito spray must be used inside homes upon return from vacation, and commodes must be flushed as well," said entomologist Professor Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University.

He said people should also check

in and outside their homes to make sure there is no stagnant water.

"People are now aware and know about it [dengue prevention], but unfortunately many are still not following the directives properly, which is why it's tough to control the spread of Aedes mosquitoes," he said.

The DGHS also advised people returning home to spray mosquito repellent before settling in.

An adult person should first enter the house and spray under table, bed, in the corners of furniture and stay outside for 30 minutes. Going back in, all windows should be opened, water taps should be run and toilets should be flushed, DGHS said.

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National Mourning Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The nation is set to observe National Mourning Day today.

The government and numerous political, socio-economic and cultural organisations have chalked out programmes to mark the 44th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members.

On this day in 1975, Bangabandhu was brutally assassinated by a group of conspiring army officers.

Bangabandhu's wife, sons, daughters-in-law and other relatives were also killed in the massacre, one of the most heinous in world history.

Bangabandhu's daughters Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, survived as they were abroad at the time.

Like previous years, along with the government, different political and socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions and professional groups have also taken elaborate programmes to pay utmost respect to Bangabandhu on the day of his martyrdom.

The nation, however, started observing the month of mourning from August 1.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages marking the occasion.

On the day, the national flag will fly half-mast atop offices of all government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and educational institutions.

The president and prime minister will place wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Museum at 6:30am. A smartly turned out contingent of the armed forces will give a guard of honour to the portrait of Bangabandhu. Special prayers will be offered there.

Later in the day, Sheikh Hasina will place wreaths and offer prayers at the Banani Graveyard for her family members and others, who embraced martyrdom.

Following the president, PM and other dignitaries, people from all walks of life will throng the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi to pay their homage.

The PM will also place wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in

Gopalganj, later in the day. Prayers will be offered and the armed forces will stage another guard of honour there. A special milad mahfil and doa will also be held.

In line with the national programme, different ministries, departments, directorates and agencies will organise events at their respective institutions. Similarly, all city corporations, district councils, municipalities and union councils will observe the day with due respect and solemnity.

The district and upazila administrations as well as information ministry have organised different events.

Bangladesh missions abroad will arrange discussions and hoist the national flag at half-mast at their respective offices.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private TV channels and radio stations will air special programmes marking the day, while national and regional newspapers will bring out special supplements.

In observance of the day, Awami League has chalked out elaborate programmes.

The national and party flags will fly half-mast atop all AL offices and Bangabandhu Bhaban.

Party leaders will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Museum at 6:30am.

Later, party leaders will place wreaths and offer fateha at the Banani graveyard. An AL delegation will also join the programmes in Tungipara. The ruling party leaders will distribute foods among the destitute in the afternoon.

Mahila Awami League will arrange a milad and doa mahfil in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban after Asr prayers.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Television has taken initiatives to read out Bangabandhu's "Oshomapto Atmajibani" (The Unfinished Memoirs) and "Karagarer Rojnamcha" (Diary in Jail).

Special prayers will be offered at all mosques across the country and other places of worship.

Tomorrow, a discussion will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at 4pm with AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair.



PHOTO OF THE DAY

FIROZ AHMED



This gate with many padlocks at the capital's Paltan area made for an interesting scene. The photo was taken yesterday.

HOTEL OLIO BLAST

CTTC finds involvement of 15 'Neo-JMB' men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police has claimed to have found link of 15 activists of banned militant outfit "Neo-JMB" with the suicide bomb blast that took place at a hotel in Panthapath on August 15, 2017.

Of them, one Saiful Islam was killed during a drive at the Hotel Olio, located around half a kilometre off Bangabandhu Memorial Museum -- the historic house in Dhanmondi where the Father of the Nation was brutally killed along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975. "On completion of investigation, we found involvement of 15 militants including Saiful. And we have sought government's approval to frame charges against the 14 suspects in this connection," Monirul Islam, chief of CTTC said on Sunday.

"All 14 suspects were believers of the ideology of the Islamic State. They believed that they would be allowed to communicate with the IS if they become successful to carry out a huge massacre on that day," Monirul said.

Talking to reporters at the DMP Media Centre, Monirul said that the miscreants

had planned to carry out an attack on the crowd paying homage to Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi 32 on National Mourning Day.

Of the 14, one Akram Hossain Khan Niloy was the mastermind of the blast, while Tanvir, Yasin Karim, his wife Humaira Zakir Nabila, Abu Turab Khan, Niloy's mother Sadia Hosna Lucky and sister Tazrin Khanam Shuvo were financiers of the attack, he said.

Abdullah Aichan Kabiraj, Abul Kashem Fakir, Lulu Sardar alias Shahid Mistri and Tajul Islam Chhoton supplied bomb-making materials, Monirul said. Nazmul Hasan Mamun made the bomb while Saiful was supposed to carry out the suicide attack.

Besides, Abdullah -- a converted Muslim, along with Abdullah Aichan Kabiraj, Abul Kashem Fakir, Kamrul Islam Shakil and Tarique Mohammad Adnan provided shelter to the militants and patronised them, according to the findings of the investigation.

Of the 14 suspects, 10 have already given confessional statements to court under section 164 of their involvement, including bomb-maker Mamun, said the CTTC chief.

Monirul said Saiful, who was killed during the operation, was once a supporter of Chhatra Shibir, Monirul Islam informed.

DMP chief gets one-month extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Asaduzzaman Mia will serve as the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner for another month, as the government on Tuesday reappointed him in the post for one month on contractual basis.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette notification on Tuesday, cancelling the post-retirement leave of Asaduzzaman Mia and reappointing him as the DMP commissioner.

According to the gazette, he will hold the post from August 14 to September 13.

The service tenure of the incumbent commissioner, who was appointed to the top post of DMP four and a half years ago on January 7, 2015 -- was supposed to end on August 7. The government then extended his tenure in office till August 13.

DMP bans flying drones without permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has banned flying of unauthorised drones in the capital to ensure public safety.

A press release signed by DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia slapped the ban on Tuesday.

Some people or groups have been flying drones without permission from the proper authorities for amusement, capturing pictures or unknown reasons, the press release mentioned.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has to give permission for flying drones, the press release said.

Failing to abide by the rule is a punishable offence as it may hamper public safety and create panic among people.

The ban came at a time when DMP has undertaken security measures centring observance of the National Mourning Day.

9TH WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNOS SC hearing on govt petition Aug 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday set August 19 for hearing a petition filed by the government seeking stay on the High Court order that issued status quo on publication of gazette notification on implementing the recommendation of ninth wage board for journalists.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Nuruzzaman sent the stay petition to its full bench for hearing on August 19.

Earlier in the day, Justice Md Nuruzzaman refused to hear on the petition, saying he was once a lawyer for Bangla daily Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman, who is also the president of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab).

Following a writ petition filed by Matiur Rahman, the HC on August 6 issued a status quo for two months on publication of gazette notification on implementing the recommendation of ninth wage board for journalists.

The government, in a recent petition with the SC seeking a stay on the HC order, said the writ petition that challenged the legality of the ninth wage board and its recommendation is premature, as the government is yet to issue any gazette notification on the recommendation.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday placed the government's stay petition before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division.

Advocate AF Hasan Ariff appeared for the Noab president. Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukdar also appeared for the government.

On July 25 this year, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had said a cabinet committee on ninth wage board award for newspaper and news agency

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Usually teeming with vehicles, Farmgate intersection remained almost deserted yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS