

Govt can now

FROM PAGE 1
Detection and Response", officials said.
It will eventually be run by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, officials said.
The equipment is installed and its potential acceptance test will be done by next week, officials at the DoT said.
If everything works as expected, the project will be handed over to the BTRC soon, they said.
The system will be used for monitoring different sites round the clock. At the same time, law enforcement agencies will ask the BTRC to block content they deem derogatory or harmful, a senior DoT official said, requesting not to be named.
The Tk 149.59 crore project is in line with the Digital Security Act recently passed by lawmakers, he added.
The law mentions forming an agency to monitor, filter and block malicious content online.
Taken up in July 2017, the project was scheduled to be completed in June this year, but it was extended until December.
The system is capable of monitoring 2,700gbps of data on the fly. The entire country's online usage is currently about 1,200gbps.
Tech Valley Solutions Ltd imported the equipment from the USA.
Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar yesterday told The Daily Star that the government had the tools to contain the spread of rumours on social media.
"The country's security is our first priority and it will be ensured through this," said Jabbar.
Meanwhile, the telecom minister yesterday attended a preparatory session at his office ahead of a high-level meeting with the Facebook authorities next week.
Facebook representatives, led by its public policy manager Varun Reddy, will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow and meet senior government officials.
"Facebook used to be very reluctant in responding to our requests for blocking contents. But now they have come to us," said Jabbar.
"Since we have the technology now, Facebook officials have started lobbying to meet us."
Facebook will have to follow Bangladeshi acts and rules, he said.
According to BTRC data of July, there are about 9.81 crore active internet connections and 3.50 crore active Facebook accounts in the country.

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SI
FROM PAGE 2
The marriage took place on August 17 at a marriage registrar's office, the father said.
"I filed a case against Shahin on August 11 for raping my daughter who used to take tuition from him," the father said, adding that they came to know about the rape incident on July 25, when his daughter had to go through an abortion.
Mainul, however, did not record the case initially, the father said, adding the SI went to their house on August 12 and 14 and tried to convince the victim and her family members that marrying the rapist would be the best solution.
At one point, SI Mainul forced us to arrange the marriage, the father said, adding that Shahin did not take the girl to his house after marriage.
In the complaint, the victim's father also alleged that Shahin seduced their daughter and raped her several times between January and April this year.
Contacted, SI Mainul said he was not "aware" of such an incident.
Meanwhile, police arrested Shahin on Wednesday in a rape case filed by the victim's father on August 11, Mahfuz Alam, officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station told The Daily Star, adding that the case was recorded on Wednesday.
Asked about the allegation against SI Mainul, the OC said he did not know anything of the matter as the SI handled it single-handedly.
Superintendent of Police in Lalmonirhat SM Rashidul Haque told this correspondent that he asked Additional SP Shafiqul to investigate the allegation against SI Mainul, adding that departmental action would be taken if the allegation proves to be true.

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Wrists of a man chopped off

FROM PAGE 1
him and two others in Ujjirpur Beribandh area on Wednesday night.
The attackers beat and confined the two others at a primary school in the area and took Rubel to a nearby char of the Padma river.
The goons then blindfolded Rubel and gagged him with a piece of cloth. At one point of torture, around 1:00am yesterday, they severed his wrists with sharp weapons and left him there bleeding.
Learning about the incident from locals, Rubel's relatives rescued him and took him to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital. He was shifted to the hospital in Rajshahi around 5:00am.
Shamsur Rahman, organising secretary of Shibganj Awami League, told reporters said both Rubel and Foyezuddin are AL supporters. There has been a longstanding feud between them over "taking control" of Tartipur cattle haat and nearby ghat of the

Padma river, he said.
Rubel said his cousin Abdus Salam, also a local AL leader, got the leases of the haat and the ghat from the authorities concerned early this year and Foyezuddin was trying to take the lease from them since the very beginning.
The attack was carried out over the feud, he said.
"Foyezuddin wanted total control of the business," he said.
After the incident, Foyezuddin went into hiding switching off his phone. He, however, was detained in Chapainawabganj Sadar's Amnura area around 9:00 last night, said Atik Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station.
"We are investigating," he said.
Police also held two of Foyezuddin's accomplices for their alleged involvement in the incident.
No case was filed till last night as the victim was being treated at hospital, said police sources.



Rubel Hossain at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday. Earlier in the day, his wrists were cut off allegedly following a feud over leases of a cattle market and a boat jetty in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila. PHOTO: STAR

Reforms key to drawing Japanese investment

FROM PAGE 1
Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh (SCB), said there were 32,000 Japanese companies in China. Of them, 5,000 to 8,000 companies were looking for an alternative.
"Bangladesh's opportunities are quite significant, but there are challenges too," he said.
Their comments came at a roundtable on deepening Bangladesh-Japan business ties, jointly organised by the SCB and The Daily Star at the latter's office in the capital.
Mamun Rashid, managing partner of PwC Bangladesh, said after Japanese Honda invested in Bangladesh, Indian Hero, TVS and Bajaj also entered Bangladesh's motorbike market.
Two Japanese car manufacturers are interested in investing in the economic zones here to manufacture cars that will be sold in other countries, said Rashid.

He added that two large Japanese companies were supposed to invest in insurance and cement industries in the country. But it did not happen because of the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in July 2016.
"Very soon, the number of Japanese companies in Bangladesh will be 500 as we are receiving good responses from Japanese investors," said Tareq Rafi Bhuiyan, secretary-general of the Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries.
A 600-bed hospital is likely to be set up in the capital's Uttara soon by a Japanese company, he added.
In November last year, Japan Tobacco Inc, one of the five largest tobacco companies in the world, completed its \$1.47 billion acquisition of Akij Group's tobacco business, the largest single foreign direct investment in Bangladesh.
The Japanese government has invested in some large infrastructure projects in Bangladesh. Some of them

are Matarbari power plant, metro rail and the construction of a terminal at the airport in Dhaka, said Yasunori Takeuchi.
The banker has high hopes about Japanese private sector's investment in Bangladesh.
Bijoy said Bangladesh's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business is 176th, out of 190 countries.
"Despite these challenges, Bangladesh has managed to grow," he said.
If the growth rate continues even at 7.5 percent, Bangladesh will have half a trillion-dollar economy in five years, he added.
Bangladesh would need to have a \$3 trillion economy to be considered a developed country by 2041. It is possible to achieve the target with proper foreign investment, Bijoy added.
Takeuchi said some large Japanese corporations have raised safety concerns after the Holey Artisan attack.

Yuji Ando added that the bureaucracy along with a complicated taxation system are barriers to attracting Japanese investment.
Shariful Alam, country manager of Mitsui, said absence of a deep-sea port was a major challenge for them. The delay in the delivery of documents from the airport and sea port is another challenge.
Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said Japan has long been a trusted development partner of Bangladesh.
Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper, while Shahedul Anam Khan, associate editor of The Daily Star, moderated the discussion.
Ali Z Chowdhury, general manager of Tekken Corporation, and Shahwar Nizam, partner of DFDL Bangladesh, also spoke.

'Flying' river taxi

FROM PAGE 20
The BubbleTM, is the brainchild of French yachtsman Alain Thebault.
It makes no noise and no waves and also emits no CO2, winning the approval of French transport officials looking to endow the capital with new clean transport options in the run-up to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

The Bubble is similar to a hydrofoil, with fibreglass foils that deploy to hoist its hull into the air when it reaches a certain speed, powered by electric batteries.
A first prototype, for four passengers, was first tested on the Seine in June 2017, with mayor Anne Hidalgo taking a spin.

The craft's operators say they have been inundated with requests for the taxis from cities including Geneva, Miami and Saint-Tropez.
In Paris, it has struck up a partnership with a tour operator offering luxury tours on the Seine.
"All the signals seem to be turning green for the start of commercial

operations of our Bubble Taxis in the first three months of 2020," said Sea Bubbles' CEO and Swedish champion windsurfer Anders Bringdal.
The taxi's mission he said was to "put the Seine back at the centre of mobility in the greater Paris area while respecting the "zero noise, zero waves, zero CO2 emissions" principle.

Ctg customs not doing much

FROM PAGE 20
textile goods by Grambangla Food Corporation. N Islam Enterprise declared the cigarettes as machinery in May 2018.
Customs sources said, the tax on machinery and textile goods is up to three percent, while tax on cigarettes is up to 600 percent.
The report suspects that the consignments were imported by the same gang as they were sent by Singapore's Sri Vaari International (GS) through the same shipping agent, Fastex Logistics Maritime.
The importers exist on papers only and their documents on house rent, trade licence, address, bank accounts, letter of credit and credit report of supplier were forged, the report added.

declared goods like scrap steel, GP sheet, seed, machinery, edible oil, and even empty containers were also brought in.
In one of the consignments, the importer showed the value of the goods to be 600 times higher than actual.
After finding those irregularities, customs authorities filed only departmental cases against the 20 importers. They did not file any case under the Anti-Money Laundering act 2012 (amendment 2015).
Chattogram Customs and Custom Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) sources confirmed that there was no accurate statistics on the money laundering incidents, although they formed internal investigation committees soon after every incident.
Customs officials said they set up an anti-money laundering wing last October but failed to file any such case for a shortage of skilled manpower.
M Fakhru Alam, commissioner of Chattogram Customs House, told The Daily Star, "Recently, NBR and BB recommended filing cases against Grambangla Food Corporation and M/S N Islam Enterprise, as they were found involved in money laundering."
He said they were gleaming information about previous money laundering incidents and would file cases in connection with all the incidents.
"I joined this position recently and I do not know why the money

laundering cases were not filed earlier."
According to documents, Femas Bangla Electronic Industries Ltd imported 'cutter blades' showing a value at \$1,008 a kilogram in December 2015, although other importers brought the product at an average of \$1.7 a kg.
Customs authority did not file any case against the importer, even though the importer sent abroad money that was 594 times the actual value of the product.
In May 2016, customs officials found that Germania Corporation Ltd was engaged in laundering Tk 85 lakh by showing container rent 21 times higher than actual.
Officials said usually containers are rent for \$800 but the company paid \$17,000 for each of the seven containers it used.
Later, an investigation committee was formed but it is yet to submit a report.
On October last, the CCH found 410 sacks of sand inside a container although it was brought by Progress Impex Ltd declaring as AA4 size papers worth Tk 12.81 lakh from China.
Arif MA Akbar, managing director of Progress Impex Ltd, told The Daily Star "We have been a victim of fraudulence by exporter and trying to contact them through the related bank and asked Bangladesh Bank for remedy.
In the same way, valueless goods

were imported by Lucky Trade, CAP Trading International, Yasir Enterprise, RSB Enterprise Ltd, SR Metal Industries, M M International, Roja Foods Ltd, Dada Bag Industries Ltd, Aramit Thai Aluminium Ltd, AB&D Corporation Ltd, LSI Industries and Shenzhen Industries Ltd.
After the incidents came to light, all of these importers claimed that they were victims of fraudulence by overseas exporters.
Mahbubul Alam, President of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it was not sure that all the incidents were money laundering cases. He said in most incidents, importers were cheated by the exporters.
Economist Moinul Islam, former professor at the Economics Department of Chittagong University, told The Daily Star, "A strong money laundering gang was involved."
According to the Global Financial Integrity report, he said Tk 5,30,000 crore were laundered from Bangladesh between 2006 and 2015. This money has been laundered in the name of importing goods, he claimed.
"Unfortunately, there is no activity to curb money laundering even though around 90 percent of the country's trade is done through Chattogram Customs," he added.
He said, "A team of the Anti-Corruption Commission should monitor the import-export documents at the customs house to stop these incidents."

Protests flare up for VC's removal

FROM PAGE 1
protesters began a fast-unto-death in front of the VC's office to press home their demand.
Ignoring the threat of suspension, the demonstrators brought out a procession around 9:00am chanting the slogan "step down VC".
"Students are suspended and teachers are served show-cause notices or barred from taking classes or exams if the university authorities think their speeches or statements go against them," said a teacher of Computer Science and Engineering Department.
Fatema Tuz Zinia, a second-year student of the law department and a campus reporter of English newspaper daily sun, was the latest victim of suspension for a Facebook post.
The university authorities withdrew her suspension on Wednesday.
"Zinia wrote about fighting against corruption and irregularities through her reports and Facebook posts. We will not keep quiet anymore," said a protester and also a student of the Bangla department.
Zinia's suspension triggered the one-point movement yesterday.
Meanwhile, the university

authorities yesterday issued 14-point office order that stated they would construct a Shaheed Minar and a mural of Bangabandhu in six months.
The order, signed by registrar Prof Nur Uddin Ahmed, also stated that no student would be suspended over their Facebook posts or comments, saying freedom of expression of common students will be ensured, none will be suspended unless the offence is "unforgivable".
The protesters, however, rejected the statements and remained strict to their demand, saying "these were mere eye wash".
A delegation of around 25-30 teachers attempted to talk to protesters around 1:30pm, but failed. Later, some students, allegedly loyal to the VC, locked into a scuffle with protesters around 2:00pm in front of the teachers.
After visiting the VC's office and calling him over the phone several times, this correspondent sent a text message to the VC, to which he responded at 9:45pm writing, "The campus situation is improving and is managed. Reports on corruption and irregularities are baseless and fabricated."
The university authorities have

cancelled all classes and examinations for Sunday.
At least 200-250 students were seen protesting till around 9:15pm.
DEMAND FOR PROBE
The long-standing allegations against the VC of sexual harassment, nepotism in recruiting teachers and other employees, and corruption in development projects, including the construction of the Shaheed Minar and Bangabandhu's mural, were announced on loudspeakers during the protest.
The protesters demanded fair probe into all the allegations against the university authorities, especially the VC.
"If any allegations are brought against any student or teacher, they face inquiries, departmental punishment or suspension. But when it is the VC, no inquiry takes place," one of the protesters said, requesting anonymity.
"Last year, a woman brought allegations of sexual harassment against the VC. Instead of investigating the allegation, the woman was given a job of a fourth-class employee at the university library to keep her mouth shut," another student protester said.
"Several lakh taka was shown spent for the construction of the

mural of Bangabandhu and the Shaheed Minar," another student said demanding investigation.
Terming the university administration "autocratic", a protesting student of the management department, said, "If anyone says anything against the autocratic authority, they are expelled."
None of the demonstrators agreed to disclose their names fearing reprisal.
Meanwhile, additional members of police were deployed outside the campus.
Campus reporters working at Dhaka University, Rajshahi University and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University formed human chains at their respective campuses, also demanding resignation of Prof Nasiruddin.
Over 40 Jahangirnagar University correspondents of different media outlets yesterday formed a human chain, protesting Zinia's suspension.
The journalists also sought punishment to BCL men who allegedly attacked Shums Jebin, a campus reporter of the Alokito Bangladesh, for showing solidarity with Zinia.

JU protesters

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students would never accept taxpayers' money going to Chhatra League leaders.
"We want to tell the VC that she should resign from her post or else the general students will force her to step down," he added.
In another development, Bangabandhu Shikhhok Parishad, a teachers' platform also known as VC-backed teachers of the university, yesterday demanded resignation of Pro-VC (admin) Prof Amir Hussain, saying that he was conspiring against the VC, said a press release.
The release added that the pro-VC would have to be out of the university's admission process, alleging that he was involved in an admission forgery when the BNP government was in power.
The platform also demanded completion of investigation against the pro-VC and sought his punishment.
Contacted, the pro-VC refuted the allegation of conspiring against the VC.
He added that the allegation of admission forgery was brought against him by VC Prof Mustahidur Rahman's administration as part of their political agenda.
He said Mustahidur was appointed VC during the BNP regime.
"I had written to the then chancellor of the university and also the president of Bangladesh in this regard. The chancellor replied and the matter ended," he added.
He asked why was the issue raised again? It is just to cover up the VC's allegation of corruption and irregularities, he said.
"If I am controversial, then why did the VC pick me as pro-VC," Prof Amir asked.

BNP leader sued

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later pass an order in this regard.
In his complaint, Mohiuddin said Dudu "issued the death threat to the PM" during a talk show titled "Raj Kahon" on Ekattor Television on Tuesday where he said that "Hasina would leave the way Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did".
The complainant said he came to know about the threat on Wednesday when the DBC Television aired a news item in this connection.
COMPLAINT FILED IN CTG COURT
Rangunia BCL President Nurul Alam filed a complaint with the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Joyanti Rani Roy of Chattogram over "issuing the death threat to the PM", reports our staff correspondent.
The court ordered Rangunia police to probe the complaint and take necessary steps to record it as a seditious case after receiving permission from the authorities concerned, said court sources.

The complainant said by issuing the threat, they were hatching a conspiracy against the PM. Hatching any conspiracy against the premier is tantamount to hatching a conspiracy against the state and that's why the BNP leader should be charged with sedition, he added.
ATTACK ON DUDU'S HOME
Meanwhile, the house of Dudu in Chuadanga town was vandalised allegedly by a group of Chhatra League men on Wednesday night, reports our Kushtia correspondent.
Dudu was a lawmaker from Chuadanga-1 in 1996-2001.
Waheduzzaman Bula, joint convener of Chuadanga district BNP and also the younger brother of Dudu, said BCL men attacked the house around 8:30pm and vandalised some furniture.
They also burnt an effigy of Dudu and declared him persona non grata in Chuadanga.
Zanif Hasan Herok, general secretary of Chuadanga district BCL, said they would prevent Dudu from entering the district.
PROTEST AT DU
In Dhaka, Chhatra league acting president Al Nahyan Khan Joy yesterday said his organisation would not tolerate any disrespect towards the prime minister.
Speaking at a protest rally in front of the Raju Sculpture at Dhaka University, Joy said the BCL would strongly resist those who would do so.
The pro-Awami League student front staged the demonstration demanding action against Dudu for his comments.
The BCL chief said, "No one will be able to harm our leader as long as Bangladesh Chhatra League exists. We will protect her at any cost."
BCL acting general secretary Lekhak Bhattacharya urged all units of the organisation to file cases against the BNP leader.
Later, BCL men burnt an effigy of Dudu.

Hurricane Humberto brushes Bermuda

Residents of the tiny British archipelago of Bermuda batted down the hatches as Hurricane Humberto, a major category 3 storm packing fierce winds and punishing rain, brushed near the islands Wednesday evening.
The Miami-based US National Hurricane Center (NHC) put the center of the storm about 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Bermuda at 9 pm local time (0000 GMT), with maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour.

APP, Hamilton

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