

Prompt, efficient, round-the-clock

Nat'l Emergency Service-999 marks two years

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

On November 25, Sagor Mahmud, a porter by profession, was waiting at Bogura Railway Station for intercity Lalmoni Express, like all other days since early morning.

The train -- that was going to Lalmonirhat from Dhaka -- reached the station around 7:15am.

Some passengers were seen dropping a newborn boy and his mother off at the station and going away, the mother in unconscious state and bleeding.

Sagor remembered hearing about the national emergency helpline-999, and had the presence of mind to call the number to seek help.

The helpline official promptly connected Sagor to Bogura Fire Service station, and requested the fire service to take steps to rescue the newborn and his mother.

A team from the fire service immediately rescued the woman.

Even after the incident, the helpline official maintained communication with the Bogura Fire Service until the woman's identity was verified. Hailing from Kaliganj of Lalmonirhat, both the newborn and his

mother are now out of danger.

The national emergency service shared some of its remarkable success stories, marking its second anniversary.

In another incident, on September 12 midnight, a caller informed the emergency helpline that some muggers hijacked his truck from Malibagh area of the capital.

The caller also said a GPS tracking system was installed in his truck, and it was headed towards Mugda.

Helpline staff immediately connected the caller with duty officer of Sabujbagh Police Station.

On information, sub-inspector of the police station set up a barricade near the Mayakanan Buddhist temple and intercepted the truck. Police also arrested the muggers. The total operation was conducted within 19 minutes.

Since the service was launched on December 12, 2017, it has responded to 1.49 crore calls till December 7 this year.

Of the calls, 21 percent (30 lakh calls) were for seeking service, while 79 percent were blank calls or from people testing if the service really worked. Among the

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Dhaka North City Corporation has been sprucing up the memorial for martyred intellectuals in Mirpur ahead of Martyred Intellectuals' Day on December 14. This photo of workers painting the surface as part of the initiative was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Mandatory insurance for migrant workers launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Mandatory insurance" for migrant workers was launched yesterday at the expatriates welfare ministry. Wage Earners Welfare Board (WEWB) Director General Gazi Mohammad Julhash and Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) Managing Director Mahfuzul Hoque signed an agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in this regard.

As per the initiative, the government will bring migrant workers under two schemes -- of Tk 2 lakh and Tk 5 lakh -- with the

aim to provide financial security to migrant workers and their families.

Both schemes will be for two years and migrant workers, aged between 18 and 58 years, will be eligible.

At the event, Expatriates Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally hand over the "first policy" of the insurance on December 19 at a ceremony, marking International Migrants Day.

"We will take steps so that no migrant worker can depart the country without insurance," he added.

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1,526 killed, 781 disappeared in last 10 years: Mirza Fakhrul

Terms country's rights situation 'dreadful'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the country's rights situation has never been in such a "dreadful state" as it is currently.

Presenting statistics, the party said in last 10 years, cases were filed against 35 lakh people while 104,814 cases were filed against political opponents.

"From 2009 to 2019, 1,526 opposition leaders and activists were killed by the government agencies and ruling party men. At least 423 BNP men have disappeared while the total number [of disappeared persons] is 781," alleged Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

Fakhrul was speaking at a seminar at a city hotel. BNP organised the event marking Human Rights Day.

At the programme, Fakhrul along with party leaders unveiled a book titled, "Absence of Democracy and Systematic Human Rights Violations by State Apparatus". The book is a compilation of "human rights violation" incidents that took place in the country between 2009 and October 2019.

BNP leader Sayantha Shakhawat gave a presentation on the book while another party

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3 motorbikes torched in High Court area

Strict security around SC ahead of Khaleda's bail hearing today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants torched three motorcycles near the High Court in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The motorbikes were set on fire around 4:40pm at High Court Mazar area, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters Jibon Miah told The Daily Star.

On information, three firefighting units rushed to the spot and doused the blaze, the firefighting department official said.

Assistant Commissioner SM Shamim of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Ramna zone) said they are investigating the incidents and filing of a case is underway.

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'Valerie a godsend for Bangladesh'

Gowher Rizvi says at 40th anniversary of CRP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Valerie Ann Taylor, founder of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), is an angel who has been serving the people of Bangladesh for the last 50 years, said Gowher Rizvi, prime minister's international affairs adviser.

Terming the dedicated service of CRP staff as a "sacrifice", he added that Valerie's values will sustain as long as her institution remains active.

He was speaking as chief guest at the 40-year celebration of CRP at Savar.

"I have visited the [wards of] the hospital; there are many angels here who have been sacrificing their lives in service... Valerie has been serving us as an angel," said Gowher Rizvi.

CRP organised the event as part of their two-day anniversary celebration.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Benoit Préfontaine, and Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau KM Abdus Salam



Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi presents a bouquet to CRP founder Valerie Ann Taylor on the occasion of the organisation's 40th founding anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

were present at the event. In her inaugural speech, Valerie reminisced the journey of CRP which started in two store-rooms of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in 1979.

Valerie had first visited Bangladesh in 1969 to serve in a health mission to Chattogram.

"I observed there was no necessary equipment to serve the patients... I

returned to UK and applied for funding from about ten donor organisations. After ten years, I returned and initiated this organisation," said Valerie, who is also a physiotherapist.

To date, the organisation has been providing an extensive range of services to persons with disabilities through 13 CRP sub-centres across

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সেরা প্রাণ
ভালোবাসা অফুরান

আপনার ভালোবাসা আর আস্থায় আজ আমরা শীর্ষে। বাংলাদেশ ব্র্যান্ড ফোরাম ও নিয়োলসেন-এর যৌথ উদ্যোগে সারাদেশে করা জরিপ মতে প্রাণ ফ্রুটো দেশের সবচে পছন্দের জুস ব্র্যান্ড আর প্রাণ মিক্স ক্যাডি দেশের সেরা ক্যাডি ব্র্যান্ড। সব ক্যাটাগরির সেরা দেশীয় ও প্রোবাল ব্র্যান্ডের ভেতরে স্থান করে নিয়েছে প্রাণ ফ্রুটো। আপনার আস্থার আর ভালোবাসায় একদিন হব বিশ্ব স্বীকৃত।

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