

48kg cannabis found in van's secret compartment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tipped-off that drug was being smuggled into the capital inside a covered-van without a number plate, detectives beefed-up vigilance at various entry points yesterday.

At Kadamtali, they intercepted one such van and conducted a search. However, they could not find anything. But something did not feel right.

"Searching the driver's chamber, we found a switch in the dash board that looked different and out of place," said Mujib Ahmed Patwari, an assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of police (Tejgaon division).

When they pushed the button, a small door opened in the back of the van, where detectives found 48 kilograms of cannabis in 24 bags, kept in a hidden compartment.

The compartment was eight feet in height and nine inches in width, where one can carry a number of bags.

Detectives also arrested the driver -- Sumon Mia -- and his assistant -- Rubel Sarker.

The DB official said the van was coming to Dhaka from Brahmanbaria with no other goods inside.

The seized drugs are worth Tk four crore, said AKM Hafiz Akter, DMP additional commissioner for DB.

"Usually, drugs are smuggled inside tyres or other parts of a vehicle. This is the first time we saw a separate chamber which is controlled by a switch," he added.

The arrestees said they were promised Tk 25,000 each for bringing the drugs to Dhaka and they were supposed to go to Basila to drop those off.

The two were placed on one-day remand each in DB custody. Police are trying to arrest the covered-van owner.



Staff of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital yesterday threw out bags full of old necessities like patients' bedsheets, curtains and aprons into an open field near the doctors' hostel to dispose of them by burning.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Probe report

FROM PAGE 3

Tapan Dutta, president of Shipbreaking Trade Union Forum, told The Daily Star that three workers died in three separate incidents in the yard in December 2020.

Of them, two died working night shifts, something that is strictly prohibited for shipbreaking yards, he said.

"The combined apathy of yard owners and inaction of industry ministry have given rise to the number of workers' death. However, not a single case has been filed against any yard owner in the history of the industry," he added. In 2020, Ministry of Industry shut down five shipbreaking yards for failing to ensure workers safety.

Five victims

FROM PAGE 3

seed, 50 grams of orange powder and two bottles filled with alcohol. The seized items were sent for chemical testing.

Contacted, the RMP spokesperson said on January 1, at least 16 people fell ill after consuming alcohol and were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. At least five died on January 2 and 3 while undergoing treatment. Of the remaining 11, six returned home healthy, but five are still being treated.

"Police took the incident seriously," he said.

RMP Commissioner Abu Kalam Siddique led a joint team of detectives and officers from different police stations during the raids.

During interrogation, the detainees admitted that they sold the illegal liquor to the people who became sick or died. Police showed the arrestees' photographs to the sick people, who identified them as the sellers.

A case was filed with Boalia Model Police Station. Law enforcers have planned for a crackdown to completely eradicate the source of this illegal liquor, police said.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh Robot Olympiad Committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In 2018, Bangladesh participated in the IRO for the first time and won a gold, a technical medal and two highly acclaimed medals. In 2019, the Bangladesh team won a gold, two silver, six bronze and one technical medal.

"Our students are doing great in various international competitions. If we can keep it up, it is possible to do something bigger in the future," she added.

With this win, Bangladesh has won the gold medal in the junior group's creative category at the IRO for three consecutive years.

Earlier, the 3rd Bangladesh Robot Olympiad was organised by the ICT Division, Department of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering of Dhaka University; and Bangladesh Open Source Network, in collaboration with Bangladesh Computer Council.

In the national phase, 731 students from 62 districts of the country participated in the competition.

An international robot team selection camp was organised with from the winners of the national event.

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Dragging on

FROM PAGE 3

300-350 feet and the top width to 100 feet, and the road constructed on the embankment is 30 feet above sea level, said Shams, also chief engineer of CDA.

The project was aimed at protecting the port city from flood and tidal surge through strengthening the coastal embankment, easing traffic congestion by creating a road to bypass heavy vehicles from the city and to connect the road with the under-construction tunnel under the river Karnaphuly as well as encouraging trade, industry, tourism and foreign investment through development of the areas.

Enec approved the Tk 856.286-crore project on March 29 in 2011. The originally approved project was scheduled to be completed by December 2014. But the implementation came to a halt as CDA could not go for land acquisition and re-settlement with the money allocated by the government.

The PD said in the initial Development Project Proposal (DPP) they asked for Tk 1,500 crore for the whole project, including Tk 730 crore for land acquisition.

But the planning commission downsized the budget and set only Tk 175 crore for land acquisition, and the project cost was fixed at Tk 856.286 crore, he said.

As land owners did not get their compensation, they filed cases, delaying construction work at the time. CDA later submitted a revised budget, dropping one of the three proposed feeder roads from the

project and went for the first revision.

In November 2013, the first revision of the project was approved by Enec, deciding the project period from 2011 to June 2017. The project cost then increased to Tk 1,496.357 crore.

The second revision of project was approved in December 22, 2016, raising the cost to 2,426.1495 crore by including some components like a 5.5-kilometre retaining wall alongside Patenga sea beach, construction of walkway in some portions and enhancing the block slope protection at the embankment up to 15 kilometres from previous four-kilometre stretch.

The second revision was proposed since more land was also needed to be acquired, said the project director.

The third revision has been proposed as some more components are included, like extension of retaining wall from 5.5 kilometre to six kilometre, increasing the number of wave deflector walls, extension of block slope protection, enhancing walkway and construction of a connecting road from Chattogram Export Processing Zone.

The Design Cell of the Water Development Board brought some changes after the second revision, which prompted the third revision, he said.

"Meanwhile, due to devaluation of Japanese currency against Bangladeshi Taka, JICA did not disburse the additional money worth Tk 62 crore which now we seek from the government," said the PD, adding that this is also a reason behind the third revision.

Rabeya Khatun

FROM PAGE 3

Hasan Mahmud, Jatiya Kobita Parishad, Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Gano Sangeet Parishad, novelist Anwara Syed Huq, thespian Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, and others paid their tribute, some physically and others through condolence statements.

Rabeya started her writing career crossing the barriers of patriarchal society and when women were almost confined to their homes.

In a career spanning almost six decades, Rabeya had shown her capacity in short stories, essays, religious history, and travelogues. At a time of rigid patriarchal barriers she became an inspiration for many budding female writers.

Rabeya wrote over 50 novels and more than 400 short stories.

She also wrote numerous screenplays for television and radio and at least three of her books were adapted for cinema.

A double

FROM PAGE 3

In 2014 in a naive way, at times carelessly, and without considering the consequences or maintaining appropriate editorial policy, concluded the study conducted by Shabnam Azim.

Considering the type of news published in 2014 and 2015, it can be said that a kind of "mutualism" between the media and militancy was established through the publication of news related to militancy, according to the study.

"The media publish news out of interest to publish information while the militant groups get the opportunity to achieve its goals through such news," it said.

The year 2016 was no exception either. An analysis of the news content of the Holy Artisan attack revealed that the militant-media relationship at this stage changed from a parasitism symbiosis to a reciprocal relationship.

The news in the latter part of 2016 and in 2017 mainly focused on police operations, it added.

However, publication of news of militant groups accepting responsibility [of any incident] help them publicise their existence, the study added.

The study recommended organising training for journalists and workshops for policy makers of the media. Also, continuous dialogues between police and the policymakers, and a guideline for reporting on the issue are also needed. It also suggested broadcasting shows on anti-terrorism.

The study recommended that the law enforcers use media friendly words while disseminating militancy-related information. This will help avert misunderstanding and confusion and the person who will brief the media must be skilled in presenting information and his/her approach should be media friendly.

BRTA secretary Aliour Rahman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khandaker Aliour Rahman, secretary of Bangladesh Road



Transport Authority (BRTA), has passed away at a city hospital yesterday. He was 52.

Aliour had been infected with Covid-19 in November but later tested negative.

A 17th batch official of Bangladesh Cadre Service, he was at under treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of Bangladesh Police Central Hospital and declared dead yesterday morning.

He was serving as director of BRTA.

Aliour left behind a son, wife and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

No encroacher

FROM PAGE 3

He said they will also introduce walkways, bicycle lanes and greenery, after recovering canals from encroachers.

Among others, DNCC Chief Executive Officer Md Selim Reza, Chief Waste Management Officer Commodore M Saidur Rahman, Chief Engineer Brig Gen Amirul Islam, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidul Islam, DNCC Ward-16 Councillor Md Motiur Rahman Mollah and Ward-14 Councillor Md Humayun Rashid were present during the drive.

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Sealed tenders are invited from the bona-fide contractors/manufacturers/dealers/distributors/suppliers for supply the followings. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

SL No.	Name of the Items	Schedule Price (Non-refundable)
1	Garbage Collection and Cleaning	Tk.1000
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4	Tailoring Work	Tk.1000
5	Supply of Daily Workers	Tk.1000

Interested bidders may obtain Tender Schedule from the Purchasing Department on submission of an application on their respective letterhead addressing to Purchase Manager up to **January 27, 2021** during the office hours. Tender will be received up to **02:30pm** on **January 28, 2021** and will be opened on the same day at **03:00 pm** in presence of bidders, if any.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008, Extn: 4164

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Time Extension for Submission of International Tender

An advertisement was published in The Daily Star and The Daily Kalerkantha on 10-12-2020 with International Tender Notice No. 41/2020 for Supply of Industrial Type Bakery Equipment of BFCC, where the last date of selling of schedule was 05-01-2021 and the dropping & opening of the tender schedule was 06-01-2021.

BFCC management has extended the time of selling and dropping & opening of the tender schedule as follows:

- The last date of selling tender schedule 19-01-2021.
- The date of tender dropping & opening 20-01-2021.

GD-20 **Dy-General Manager, BFCC**

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using "Two-envelope system" from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

- RFP/BAN/2021/001: For development and production of advocacy video on "Healthy City Initiative" for Khulna City.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 18 January 2021.

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO- Country Office for Bangladesh, United House, 10 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 8181658-61, 8181169, 8181664-69; Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>

Vacancy Announcement

PKSF has been implementing a new project titled "Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP)" jointly financed by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Denmark since January 2020. The development objective of the project is the sustainable growth of selected rural commodity value chains with comparative advantage, market demand, growth potential, and backward linkages to small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs. PKSF hereby invites applications from the suitable candidates for the recruitment of the following positions under RMTP:

S.N	Name of the Posts	No. of Posts	Monthly Salary (Consolidated)
1	Sector Value Chain Specialist (Fisheries)	01	BDT 209,000/-
2	Sector Value Chain Specialist (Horticulture)	01	BDT 209,000/-
3	ICT Specialist	01	BDT 175,000/-
4	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist	01	BDT 175,000/-
5	Communication, Publication and Knowledge Management Specialist	01	BDT 149,000/-
6	Value Chain Project Manager	01	BDT 149,000/-
7	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	01	BDT 120,000/-
8	Gender and Social Inclusion Officer	01	BDT 120,000/-

The employees will be recruited initially for one year with an opportunity for performance-based annual renewal during the project period. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should apply online by **23 January 2021**. For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and instructions to apply, please visit PKSF website: www.pksf-bd.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Golam Touhid
Deputy Managing Director

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is inviting innovative proposal as response to this IFP from interested CSOs and CSOs coalition for Human Rights and Justice Programme (HRJP).

The solicitation format along with other relevant information and documents for submission are available in the link at: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

Submission of IFP document: The letter of submission should clearly mention the subject "Application for Low Value Grant and name of the Category" with the necessary documents as per instructions specified in the "solicitation document" available in the above link above.

The deadline for submission of Proposal (as per proposal template in the IFP) and a cover letter in a sealed envelope is **Thursday, January 21, 2021, 04:00 pm** local time and to be sent to **Human Rights and Justice Programme (HRJP), UNDP Bangladesh, BTMC Bhaban (8th floor), National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, 7-8 Karwanbazar, Dhaka-1215** by hand delivery/postal service/ courier.