

Pabna village haats now under surveillance

Traders of Bonogram and Dublia haats install cameras with the help of Ataikula police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Traders of Bonogram haat in Santhia upazila, one of the biggest village markets of Pabna district, were often harassed by extortionists and thieves but now they are feeling pretty much secure as the entire market has come under Close Circuit Camera (CC camera) surveillance, thanks to the Bazar association and district police administration.

Earlier, Dublia haat in Pabna Sadar upazila was brought under CC camera surveillances a week ago. In the same way, all haats in the district are likely to be brought under CC camera surveillances soon for ensuring safety in rural areas, district police administration sources said.

"Bonogram haat is one of the leading rural markets of Pabna. Over four hundred traders have regular business and several thousand traders from different areas come on the weekly haat day with the weekly transaction of the market reaching upto Tk 100 crore," said, Ripon Munshi, president of Bonogram Bazar traders' association.

Due to the huge gathering in the haat day muggers often snatch money from traders and buyers in the busy market while frequent theft was a matter, so the Bazar committee with the help of the police administration has set up 22 CC cameras at important points of the haat, he said.

"Traders of Bonogram haat arranged fund for setting up CC cameras in the entire market while the footages are being screened by the police personnel at the Bonogram police camp," Ripon Munshi said adding they have plan to set 10 more cameras in the market.

"If any crime takes place, the criminals would be identified easily due to the CC cameras so the traders and buyers of the market are feeling safe," said Md Faruk Hossain, a trader of the market.

Md Jalal Uddin, Officer-In-Charge of Ataikula Police Station, however, said not only



in Bonogram haat but also Dubliahaat under Ataikula police station has also been brought under CC camera surveillance installing 16 cameras a week ago.

In the same way Ataikula haat and Pushpopara haat of Pabna Sadar Police Station will come under CC camera surveillance soon for ensuring safety of the busy rural markets, the OC said.

"Instructed by the superintendent of Pabna police, Ataikula Police has taken the first initiative to bring village markets (haats) under CC camera surveillances. Traders of Dublia haat

and Bonogram haat came forward for setting up cameras while two other haats under my police station will also be brought under CC camera surveillances soon," OC Jalal added.

Md Muhibul Islam, superintendent of police in Pabna, said steps will be taken to bring all the rural markets (haats) under CC camera surveillances.

"Through the CC cameras police will easily monitor the busy rural markets of the district. It will help to improve law and order situation in the district," The SP added.

Four convicts

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1971 Liberation War, and issued a gazette notification to this effect on December 15 the same year.

Nur was awarded the title "Bir Bikram", Dalim "Bir Uttam", and Rashed and Moslehuddin were given the title "Bir Protik".

On Wednesday, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque told reporters that his ministry decided in principle to strip the four convicted killers of the state gallantry awards.

Earlier the High Court on December 15 last year had ordered the government to suspend the state gallantry awards of the four convicted killers of Bangabandhu.

'Reef stars'

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around a metre in diameter, in coral reefs across Bali. The stars bridge gaps in the reefs where coral has died, supporting regrowth.

"We're aiming to install about 5,000 reef stars over the next five years," Hutasoit, 52, a former World Wildlife Fund employee, told Reuters.

"And in the future, we also if possible want to expand outside Bali for the restoration of coral reefs."

The Indonesian archipelago harbours more than 75% of the world's coral species, many of which are facing erosion and bleaching every year, according to the Coral Triangle Initiative, a transnational coral restoration project.

Only just over half of Bali's coral reefs are considered to be in "good" condition with 30% in "poor" condition and the remaining 15% in "very poor" condition, according to a 2018 report by Bali's Marine and Fisheries Department.

The damage has been attributed to human activity, including destructive fishing, global warming, and heavy waves.

Part of the Nusa Dua Foundation's remit is holding community outreach programs, attempting to educate local residents about the importance of protecting Bali's coral reefs.

I Nyoman Sadnya, a local fisherman, said his parents had mined coral from the island's reefs for decades, unaware of the destructive long-term impact.

"My parents did not have a job and the area here used to be an arid area, and sometimes it was difficult to find food," he said. "So my parents resorted to coral mining for building materials, because they didn't know (it was bad)."

Raped, assaulted, locked up in foreign

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Saima was introduced to Rifadul Islam Ridoy, known as Ridoy Babo on TikTok, in the capital's Hatirjheel through a friend in March 2019.

In February and September 2020, Ridoy took her to a TikTok hangout and a pool party at resorts in Gazipur and Narayanganj, where 700-800 young girls and boys participated.

This year, on February 15, telling her that they were going to another hangout in Kushtia, Ridoy took her to Satkhira, a transit point for trafficking to India, and kept her in a house there.

On February 19, she was trafficked to India and the ordeal began. Saima was kept in a house in Bashirhat in West Bengal and was first raped there. The syndicate captured video of it and later used it to blackmail her.

Having forged an Indian national identification card for her, the syndicate then took her by air from Kolkata to Bengaluru, where she was locked up for 10 days in a house in Anandapura circle. She was tortured physically until she agreed to do sex work.

It was at that house that she met Rinky (not her real name), the video of whose brutal torture and sexual

assault had gone viral recently. A few days later, Rinky was sent to a hotel in Hyderabad.

Saima herself was taken to a hotel in Chennai.

"On the first day, I was forced to have sex with 19 people," she said in tears.

After six days at the hotel, Saima fell ill and was taken back to the house in Anandapura, where she again met Ridoy, and four more girls freshly trafficked from Dhaka.

She said she met around 20 to 30 Bangladeshi girls at that house and the Chennai hotel.

"We were only allowed to go out of their house if we agreed to sex work."

On March 27, Ridoy wanted to have a physical relationship with one of the girls, and when Saima protested, Ridoy hit her on the head with a liquor bottle.

Speaking to Rinky -- who was in Hyderabad -- over the phone, Saima sought her help to escape. Rinky told Saima that if she and two other girls could get to Kerala, Rinky could help them as she has connections there. In that case, she would also escape from the Hyderabad hotel and go to Kerala.

The two others fled the Bengaluru

house on May 3 but Saima stayed back because of illness. A day later, she managed to flee her captors while they were taking her to the Chennai hotel. Saima finally reached Bangladesh on May 7 by paying brokers Tk 30,000 at the border.

Once she was back, she got a message from Ridoy. It was the video of Rinky being tortured and sexually abused. Ridoy said if they do not obey him, such videos of hers would be made public.

"I uploaded the video hoping to get justice so that the assaulters get arrested," Saima said.

Hafiz Al Faruk, additional deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Division Police, told The Daily Star yesterday that the transnational syndicate of the South-western region of Bangladesh and several Indian states have mainly used the social media app TikTok as a platform for human trafficking.

"We have identified a significant number of TikTok groups, admins of these groups, and some active members in common of these groups, whose activities are suspicious. Legal action will be taken against all those involved in trafficking," said Faruk, who is supervising investigation of the case.

Ruling party MPs blast govt

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of thought, speech and expression and of free media.

Participating in the discussion on the supplementary budget, MP Ali Ashraf said, "We took part in the country's Liberation War [in 1971] without thinking for our own lives, we did not struggle with the hope of getting something in return. We did it in response to the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in order to free the people... Now in that same country, we have to bow our heads in shame and hate due to thieves."

"Although the prime minister and her government have unequivocally mentioned zero tolerance against corruption and those involved in money laundering, I think adequate and proper steps should be taken in this regard."

The AL MP also suggested the government overhaul the tax administration and increase its efficiency, transparency, honesty and sincerity.

Speaking against the proposed taxation on the income of private universities and private medical

colleges, Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir said such measures taken in the budget were not education friendly.

"The spread of education through private entrepreneurship will be hindered due to the imposition of this tax."

He proposed that the government forms a bank commission and a tax commission to bring reform in the two sectors.

BNP MP Harun said Bangladesh has become a victim of international politics regarding the coronavirus vaccine.

He said China and Russia had offered to conduct trials of their Covid-19 vaccines in Bangladesh.

"Why it was not done?" He added that this was why receiving vaccines from China's Sinopharm has become uncertain.

Harun also said the Indian variant began spreading because the government failed to provide enough security measures at the bordering districts, adding at least 100-bed hospital should be arranged in areas where the infection rates have increased.

"Otherwise people will die on the streets."

He also demanded reforms in the health department.

On the other hand, Rumeen said journalist Rozina was subjected to extreme harassment at the hands of bureaucrats for highlighting irregularities and corruption in the health sector.

She said Rozina reported on the irregularities and corruption in the health sector and that's why she fell victim to extreme harassment by the government.

Rumeen, also an opposition whip, questioned what steps were actually taken against those who detained and humiliated Rozina for six hours?

"The government would boast about the number of media outlets in the country. If there are various restrictions on them for publishing a truthful report, then none of them can function independently, no matter what the number is. And that is why Bangladesh ranks 152nd out of 180 countries in the world free media index. Myanmar, Afghanistan and even Uganda are above Bangladesh."

Move to Home unconstitutional

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Former Justice Abdul Matin, who presided over the discussion, said many people think the move was with "motivate".

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said the move was a naked attack on the independence of the commission. The NID card and voter list is inter-connected.

If the NID card and voter database come under the control of the government, it can create a scope for their political use. It also can give the government scope for including or excluding anyone, he added.

Dhaka University Professor Asif Nazrul said the government disgraced the EC. "If the NID services are given to the home ministry, it would be dangerous...."

He added that this move might create the scope for the police to harass people.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal leader Razequzzaman Ratan said this move was to curb citizen's rights.

Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Ruhin Hossain Prince said it reflects that the government wants to continue its authoritative rule.

Jatiya Party (Manju) leader Sheikh Shahidul Islam said there should be a separate body like NID Commission as there is a lack of trust in the home ministry.

Journalist Abu Sayeed Khan said the EC's NID wing was a successful one, it should be under the EC.

Another journalist Sohrab Hossain said the current Election Commission failed to ensure the voting rights of the

people.

"It is now a spineless organisation... I think the move of shifting the NID services was part of plan to divert the EC's failures," he added.

The Prime Minister's Office in late May instructed the Cabinet Division to take necessary steps to move NID-related services to the Security Services Division under the home ministry.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar already expressed concern regarding the matter.

Bangladesh Election Commission Officers Association and Bangladesh Election Commission Secretariat and Field Level Officers-Employees Unity Council also expressed worry over this.

4 killed in 2 months in clashes over UP polls in Mehendiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least four people have been killed in a series of clashes over the UP elections of Uttar and Dakshin Ulania Union Parishad in Mehendiganj upazila of Barishal in the last two months.

More than 50 people have been injured and 20/25 houses vandalized in the clashes.

On May 20, Jamal Dhali's house in Saldi village of North Ulania union was attacked by Kalam Bepari's supporters while a wedding ceremony was in progress. Jamal Dhali's cousins-- Abdus Sattar Dhali and Siddikur Rahman--were killed and 15/20 people were injured in this incident.

Locals said in the last Dhulkhola UP election, Awami League nominated candidate Jamal Dhali and rebel candidate Kalam Bepari contested and both of them lost to the BNP candidate. Since then, there have been sporadic clashes between supporters of both candidates, leading to the attack at the wedding party.

On April 11, clashes broke out between supporters of Awami League candidate Milton Chowdhury and rebel candidate Ruma Begum at Sultani village in Dakshin Ulania union Parishad in the upazila. Saiful Sardar, a supporter of Ruma Begum, and Sayed Chowdhury, a cousin of Milton Chowdhury, were killed in the incident. The two lost their lives as a result of clashes over the union parishad election, locals said.

On December 4, 30/35 people, including police, were injured in a clash between the two chairman candidates and police in the Dakshin Ulania Union Parishad election in Mehendiganj upazila.

At least four people were also injured in clashes between supporters of a rival

candidate on December 4, in Uttar Ulania Union Parishad elections.

Though the election has been postponed in these two centers, the clashes have not stopped.

Abul Kalam, officer-in-charge of Mehendiganj Police Station, said that the number of accused in the four murders in the upazila was more than hundred and police are trying to arrest all of accused.

Local people alleged that MP of this constituency Pankaj Nath has fueled a part of the conflict.

Asked about the matter, he said, the situation has heated up after the secretary of the district Awami League, Talukder Md Younus, delivered a speech during the UP election here. The MP denied his involvement in any violence.

District Awami League Secretary Talukdar Md Younus denied the allegations, saying he was not involved in local politics.

Meanwhile, former upazila chairman Ad Mansur Ahmed has expressed concern over the killings.

"People want to live here peacefully, we have to make sure of that anyway," he said.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Mehendiganj) Sukumar Roy said that political clashes were going on one after another. Although law enforcers are active, political action is necessary to resolve crisis. We have already informed the higher authorities.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Barishal Range, Md Maruf Hossain said that everything is being done to control law and situation by the police here. Two police camps have been set up in the two unions. Forty people have been arrested in the case. Police are in a tough position here.

2 largest currency

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government banks for checking of serial numbers in the next three days.

INDEPENDENCE WILL DEFINITELY COME: BHASANI

Maulana Bhasani said the people of Bangladesh would continue their present struggle as long as it was required, no matter whether they received cooperation and assistance from other countries. In a statement issued today Bhasani said all parts of Bangladesh were smeared with the blood of one million Bangalees and through this stream of blood, the independence of Bengal would definitely come. That was why the people were fighting the West Pakistani army staking their life and property.

He said this struggle was not only for realising the political rights of the people but also to remove economic disparity. Hence this fight would not end in any compromise.

PRINCE AGA KHAN MEETS YAHYA

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan today conferred with President Yahya Khan in Rawalpindi. Prince Aga Khan, who arrived in Rawalpindi on June 6, 1971 on a three-day visit at the invitation of the Pakistan government, would visit Bangladesh.

Earlier, his office announced that

Prince Aga Khan would discuss possible arrangements for the return of the East Pakistani refugees who fled to India. Repatriation was the "most desirable solution to the problem from the humanitarian point of view," said the announcement.

FAO APPEALS FOR AID

The director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) appealed today for additional assistance to relieve "the very serious humanitarian problem" raised by the recent war in East Pakistan. Speaking at the opening session of the FAO Council in Rome, Dr Addeke H Boerma declared that the requests for emergency food aid by Pakistan and India were "beyond the resources" of his organisation and the World Food Program.

LOADING OF CTG-BOUND SHIPS STOPPED

Port workers in Kolkata stopped today two Chittagong-bound ships -- London Advocate and Manipur. The boycott was in compliance with a directive from the Port Sramik Union. The cargo included transformers, automotive parts, naphtha, tractor parts, drugs and military goods.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

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তারিখঃ ০২/০৬/২০২১ইং

স্মারক নং-ওসমেকহাসি/দশাঃ/২০২১/৪৫৯

সম্পূর্ণ শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস প্রাপ্তির আবেদন প্রসংগে

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশে সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের উদ্যোগে পরিচালিত সম্পূর্ণ শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধী শিশু/ব্যক্তির জন্য বিশ্বের সর্বাধুনিক চিকিৎসা পদ্ধতি কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট কর্মসূচী সিলেট এম এ জি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে চালু করা হয়েছে।

সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদেরকে সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে এই ডিভাইস (যন্ত্র) প্রদান করা হয় এবং প্রার্থীদের কে ডিভাইসের নামমাত্র আর্থিক মূল্য পরিশোধ করতে হয়। উল্লেখ্য যে, ডিভাইস বরাদ্দের ক্ষেত্রে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের কম বয়সী শিশুরা অগ্রাধিকার পাবে।

কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস বরাদ্দ পাওয়া ও সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে কানে স্থাপনে আর্থী শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধী রোগী/অভিব্যক্তির পক্ষ থেকে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) রুম নং-৪০৮, ৭নং ওয়ার্ড (ইএনটি বিভাগ) অত্র হাসপাতাল সংলগ্ন, কক্সিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট কার্যক্রম, সিলেট এম এ জি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, কাজল হাওর, সিলেট এই ঠিকানায় আবেদনপত্র বিতরণ ও জমা নেওয়া হবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট আবেদন ও প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র আগামী ৩০ জুন ২০২১ইং তারিখের মধ্যে জমা দেওয়া যাবে।

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সিলেট

জিডি-১১৪৭