

Enhance cooperation in pharma, agriculture

Bangladesh ambassador tells Manila press

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh wants to enhance its cooperation with the Philippines in the pharmaceutical and agriculture sector.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the Philippines Borhan Uddin told the media in Manila yesterday, after a courtesy call with Filipino President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"We have a very booming pharmaceutical sector in Bangladesh. He [Marcos] will be happy to know that we export our pharmaceuticals to more than 140 countries around the globe, including USA and European Union countries," Borhan Uddin said, reports The Inquirer, a Filipino newspaper.

The ambassador added that there may

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Residents of Old Dhaka wade through knee-deep water accumulated on the road, as the city witnessed downpour since the first hours of the day yesterday. Due to the area's poor drainage system, even a drizzle gets the roads clogged with water. Despite this problem persisting for years now, the authorities are yet to take any action. This picture was taken from Kazi Alauddin Road.

29 dengue patients hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 29 dengue patients have been hospitalised in different hospitals of Dhaka in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday -- which points to an alarming rise of dengue cases.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue cases rose to 690 this year, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the dengue patients, 104 are still undergoing treatment, of which, three are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 586 patients so far have been released from hospitals, and there have been no reports of death so far.

Dhaka is at risk of a major dengue outbreak this year compared to the last couple of years, as clear, stagnant water, the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, at under-construction buildings is abundant this time around.

The scenario came to light after DGHS conducted a pre-monsoon survey between March 23 and April 4.

PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

EVOLUTION OF CYBERCRIME (PART 5)

It's in the many technicalities

With new social-media platforms and services in place, it has become increasingly harder for law enforcers to deal with ever-rising cybercrimes. Criminals discover new loopholes in the system every day and exploit them. In the last instalment of our five-part series, law enforcers talk about their limitations in dealing with cybercrimes and possible solutions.

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Last Friday, police officials collected details of a SIM card number that was used for hacking a mobile financial service (MFS) account.

To their utter surprise, law enforcers found that the SIM was registered under the name of an employee of a reputed private firm, who had no idea his details were being used by a hacker.

However, this incident is far from being isolated. Criminals often use pre-registered SIM cards for threat calls, hacking and illegal trade to keep police in the dark.

Law enforcers believe this has been made possible due to the easy availability of such SIM cards in the market and lack of monitoring.

This correspondent recently visited the capital's Panthapath area to test the claim.

A man was found selling SIM cards at a makeshift roadside stall near the Panthapath intersection. When approached to buy one from him without NID, he refused to sell at first.

However, after some more conversations, he decided to

LIMITATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Pre-registered SIM cards in open market	Setting up cyber police station, tribunal in each district
Availability of shared IP, illegal ISPs	Cooperation between social-media platforms, law enforcers
Inadequate skilled manpower	Enhancing capacity of cybercrime tribunal, judiciary
Absence of agreements with foreign countries	Providing tribunal with proper IT facilities
Lack of MoUs with social-media platforms	Preserving digital evidence
Negligence, unawareness of users	Strengthening law enforcers with training, resources

sell a pre-registered SIM card in exchange for Tk 700, which after some more bargaining came down to Tk 600.

"You are in luck today," he told this correspondent.

"The easy availability of SIM cards poses a major limitation for us to deal with cybercrimes. Syndicates collect personal details from people in different areas in the name of surveys and then use them to register SIM cards without their knowledge," said Chatak Chakma, assistant

commissioner of cybercrime unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC).

He said these SIM cards are later sold to criminals who use them for hacking and other fraudulent activities. They later go off the radar by switching the numbers off, said Chatak.

Subrata Roy Maitra, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), recently said they conduct regular drives against these activities and act on any specific

complaint.

"We even serve show-cause notices to the operators concerned," he said.

In August last year, CTTC's e-fraud team conducted a drive in different areas of Sylhet and arrested five over hacking of MFS accounts. All 540 SIM cards found in their possession were pre-registered.

"Targeting uneducated tea workers, they take fingerprints and other details from them twice or thrice, because the scanning was not done properly. In the process, they register for three SIM cards with the information of one individual, but provide each with one card only," said Suranjana Saha, assistant commissioner of the e-fraud team, who led the drive in Sylhet.

"We found a SIM distributor involved in the scam and arrested him. Lack of monitoring is a major reason behind these occurrences," she added.

THE CURSE OF SHARED IP
Law enforcers said in Bangladesh, only a limited number of people use unique

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36.5m children displaced globally

Says Unicef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conflict, violence and other crises left a record 36.5 million children displaced from their homes at the end of 2021. According to Unicef's estimates, this is the highest number of displaced children recorded since World War II.

This figure includes 13.7 million refugee and asylum-seeking children and nearly 22.8 million children who are internally displaced due to conflicts and violence, Unicef said in a statement yesterday.

These figures do not include children displaced by climate and environmental shocks or disasters, as well as those newly displaced in 2022, including the ones displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Unicef released the global statement from New York ahead of World Refugee Day on June 20. Unicef Bangladesh provided the statement to Bangladeshi media.

Over the last year, this global number has increased by 2.2 million, reads the statement.

"The number of children being displaced by conflicts and crises is rapidly growing, so is our responsibility to reach them," said Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell.

Apart from the mentioned number, crises like the war in Ukraine has caused more than 2 million children to flee the country and displaced 3 million internally since February.

Moreover, children and families are also being driven out of their homes by extreme weather events, such as droughts in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and severe flooding in Bangladesh, India and South Africa.

A total of 7.3 million children were newly displaced as a consequence of natural disasters in 2021.

Unicef urged member states to adhere to their commitments to ensure the rights of all uprooted children. The UN agency also called on governments to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all refugee, migrant and displaced children.

HAJJ FLIGHTS

Govt warns Biman, Saudia

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has warned Biman and Saudia airlines for carrying hajj pilgrims to Jeddah instead of their scheduled destination -- Madinah, making pilgrims suffer.

In a letter to the two airlines, the ministry said the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah also expressed its concern over the matter.

According to the religious affairs ministry, a number of Madinah-bound pilgrims are being taken to Jeddah almost every day on scheduled flights of Biman and Saudia.

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The Saudi ministry summoned Jahurul Islam, Bangladesh hajj office counsellor in Jeddah, and informed that the "route to Makkah" initiative was taken to lessen the sufferings of pilgrims.

"But the hajj pilgrims are being harassed with a longer journey instead," said the ministry.

"We are instructing [Biman and Saudia] to refrain from such activities to protect the image

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GOLD SMUGGLING CASES

Utter negligence at initial stage

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Most gold smuggling cases see no headway due to insufficient evidence, as investigating police officers fail to glean vital information from the arrestees during interrogation and subsequent investigation.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has come to this conclusion after analysing 17 cases filed from 2016 to 2020 involving the recovery of 124kg of gold in total.

"The masterminds cannot be traced down due to insufficient information. This weakens the case, and the chance of conviction gets slim," said a top CID official working at its Dhaka metro office.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said vital information is sometimes

- ▶▶ CID analysed 17 cases filed from 2016 to 2020
- ▶▶ 10 relate to gold smuggling using Biman flights
- ▶▶ Investigating officers don't quiz arrestees enough
- ▶▶ Since accused were placed on remand before, courts don't grant further remand
- ▶▶ In almost all cases, carriers who get arrested know only 2 persons
- ▶▶ Since 2017, 233 cases have been filed in Dhaka against 261 people

"intentionally" left out while filing cases to protect smugglers who have

connections with some law enforcers.

Ten of the 17 cases analysed by the specialised police department relate to gold smuggling using Biman flights. Seven other consignments were brought in using other airlines, officials said.

CID's Dhaka Metro Unit is now investigating all the 17 cases.

CID's analysis of case documents shows investigating officers failed to extract any vital information from the arrestees, who were placed on two to three days' remand.

The fact is the investigating officers do not quiz them to get to the bottom of the case and track down the masterminds, a CID investigator said.

"We went through statements given by the accused during the

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Right in the middle of the main road in front of Kamalapur Railway Station, speedy vehicles were seen going past a gaping manhole. Despite days going by since the cover was spotted missing, authorities are yet to fix a lid on it. This in itself poses risks of accidents but during the ongoing monsoon, the chances of unfortunate events occurring grow manifold. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN