

'Reform police force'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday expressed grave concern over the deteriorating law and order apprehending that it would definitely make an adverse impact on the investors both at home and abroad.

They blamed the lack of vision in the political leadership as the main reason for developing a crime culture in the society.

The speakers also urged the government to reform the police force and form a special 'industrial police force' for maintaining law and order in the industrial zones.

"Crime is no longer committed by the members of poor and helpless family only, rather it is now being committed more by the social deviants who are rich, young, educated and powerful irrespective of their sex, religion and status," observed former inspector general of police (IGP) Dr. M Enamul Haq while presenting the key note paper at the seminar.

He said long default culture, manipulation of share market and political kick backs are the common gossips in the society.

Bangladesh Chamber of Industry (BCI) organised the seminar which was addressed by Law and Parliament Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Barrister Mainul Hossain, Dr. Zafurullah Chowdhury, Anisul Haq and acting BCI president A K

Azad.

The former IGP in his paper said the scenario has become such that the ladies now a days wear ornaments of imitation instead of real jewellery while people hesitate to go out at night unless compelled to do so.

People are now very much familiar with the terms 'Mastan', 'Muscleman', 'Hijacker', 'Goon' and above all 'Political Cadres' under the patronage of 'God father' he added.

Referring to the role of police, Enamul Haq said their criticism had never been so rampant as in these days.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed said the entire judiciary and police force would be reformed extensively to ensure justice in the society.

He declined to admit that the deterioration of law and order is the main problem of the country. Rather, according to him, it was one of the main problems.

The law minister said no previous government considered the police force as an institution. They only tried to use it as political tool.

"The present government only inherits the legacy of the past," said Moudud Ahmed adding that "The government is trying to resolve 116 sensitive cases through speedy trials".

He accused that the law and order deteriorated because the Awami League government had

given a total of 4,300 licenses of arms to its activists.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury admitted that the law and order situation had turned into a national problem.

He said criminals were given shelter because most of the crimes were committed for political reasons.

The home minister said top terrorists have been listed and efforts are going on to catch them. There would not be any compromise regarding their arrest, he added.

Referring to various steps taken by the government, the home minister hoped that the incidents of crime would reduce very soon.

He said the government is going to recruit five thousand additional personnel to strengthen the existing police force.

Regarding the recent police atrocities at a female dormitory of Dhaka University, the home minister said three inquiry committees had been formed and it would not be wise to make any comments before getting reports from those committees.

Barrister Mainul Hossain said the law and order deteriorated due to political reasons. He suggested the government to reform the police force on priority basis.

He alleged that police were not given freedom to discharge their duties; they were used as 'political tool' instead.



Pothole-strewn Nazimuddin Road poses a road hazard to the pedestrians and the passengers as well. This road has been in very bad shape for long but the authorities remain indifferent to the woes of the road users.

Domestic gas lines to be brought under metering system

60,000 meters under procurement

UNB, Dhaka

At present, there are 8 lakh domestic connections, and after a revised decision the monthly payment for every double-burner is Tk 350.

The Titas Gas will install meters for all the domestic connections in phases. However, it will take some time to have metered payments for all domestic gas connections.

Meanwhile, the Energy Minister in the meeting gave some directives for removing all hurdles in getting gas connection by the customers.

As per the instructions, the field offices have been entitled to give gas connections, which was only under authority of the head office.

The regional offices have also been empowered to set up meters.

From now on, the willing customers won't need to buy any application forms. A willing customer will only submit the fees before getting connection. The fee deposit would be possible not only with the banks, but also offices concerned.

The ministry Thursday waived a complex procedure of going through at least 20 documentation prerequisites for getting gas connection.

In another development, the State Minister for Energy in the meeting asked Titas authorities to make its tender process more transparent to avert shady deals.

Mosharraf Hossain cancelled a Titas tender order that had made it a condition that a willing party would be able to complete only for one item, out of eight.

He asked the Titas authorities to float fresh tender enabling all listed firms to compete for items they want to vie for.

"When a company is enlisted, it has right to compete for any item," Mosharraf Hossain told UNB after the meeting.

Titus Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd will not give any new connection for unlimited usage of the cooking gas in houses.

"Payment for all the new connections of household gas use will be on the basis of meter reading," a senior official said quoting a decision of a meeting held at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry yesterday.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain presided over the meeting attended by officials of the ministry, Titas and Petro-bangla.

The Titas has already floated tender for 60,000 meters for counting domestic use of gas. All the new connections will be metered. The price of per unit of domestic gas will be determined shortly.

Govt takes steps for better treatment of dengue patients

BSS, Dhaka

The government has taken up initiative to keep the fatality rate from dengue fever at less than one per cent this year through better treatment of dengue patients.

Officials at the health directorate told BSS yesterday that 800 physicians from different hospitals and clinics of private and public sectors have so far been given training on the management of the disease so the fatality could be kept at an internationally tolerable level.

"The dengue virus has come to stay for long because it will take

time to remove all environmental pollutants that help breed Aedes mosquitoes unless all quarters work together. Meanwhile, we have the only option of keeping the fatality rate at the lowest," one official at health directorate said.

He said, "The fatality rate this time is much less than in 1997 because of the improvement in the management of patients."

Prof Abul Faiz in Chittagong Medical College Hospital is currently conducting a research on dengue virus to find out more effective measures to control and manage the disease effectively.

An official at the dengue monitoring cell said that so far, 244 people have been reported to be attacked by dengue while eight persons died in different government hospitals and private healthcare centres.

However, the number of patients in different healthcare centres this year is much lower than in the last two years.

One official said the inhabitants of the capital are also suffering from an unknown viral disease that causes high fever like dengue. But people should not take risk of taking time to become sure of dengue incidence that would prove fatal.

Central traffic control centre to be set up to ease traffic jam

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken an initiative to set up a central traffic control centre equipped with modern technology in the capital city to ease traffic jam.

The centre will monitor the traffic congestion in different streets with Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV).

This was disclosed at a meeting of the National Road Safety Council held at the Communications Ministry conference room with Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda in the chair.

Reviewing the traffic jam situation, the meeting expressed dissatisfaction over the failure to keep the left lanes of city roads open for smooth movement of vehicles.

To ensure safety on national and regional highways, the meeting said, telephone booths will be set up at vulnerable points of the highways and at roadside petrol pumps.

The progress of setting up an accident research centre and a permanent secretariat for the National Road Safety Council were also discussed in the meeting.

It directed the BRTA and traffic police to take joint action to check plying of old and unfit vehicles, which were banned but some of those were reintroduced with cosmetic changes.

The meeting also warned the passengers of stern action for travelling on the rooftop of trains.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Executive President of the Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation Shahjahan Ahmed and Forest and Environment Secretary Sahihuddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

Representatives from Cabinet Division and ministries concerned, Planning Commission, Roads and Highways Department, BUET, BRTA, DCC, traffic police, Health Directorate and members of the Road Safety Council were also present.

The Women's Fashion, a boutique and tailoring shop, was inaugurated at the Katalganj in the port city yesterday.

Tahera Khasru Chowdhry, wife of commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, inaugurated the shop as chief guest.

Elderly journalist Obaidul Haq was present on the occasion as special guest.

The shop has a huge collection of boutique, block and embroidery dresses.

Owner of the shop Nahid Sultana Nananni said, "We will try to bring diversity in colour and design of the women's dresses to match the taste of our customers".

We are hopeful that the Women's Fashion will be able to meet the demand and desire of the fashionable ladies of the port city, she added.

Federation Shahjahan Ahmed and Forest and Environment Secretary Sahihuddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

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Boutique shop opens in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

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Notice of the Public Shareholders and Public Subscribers

Public subscribers will be invited for a General Meeting of the eligible shareholders under rules 15 A & 15 B of the Insurance Rules 1958.

Share Department at

PURABI GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
23 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Ph: 9566006-7
E-mail: purabi@dhaka.com

Notice of the Public Shareholders of the Company for election of Directors from Public Subscribers

Notice is hereby given that the election of Directors from Public subscribers will be held on the 29th September 2002 in the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Company. Nominations in prescribed forms are invited from eligible shareholders expressing his/ her willingness to contest the election of directors under rules 15A & 15 B of the Insurance Rules 1958 from Public Subscribers.

Nomination Forms are available with the Company Secretary/ Share Department at the Registered Office of the Company.

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Schedule of Election

<input type="checkbox"/> Last date of submission of nomination paper	: 28-08-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Scrutiny of nomination paper	: 29-08-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of publication of Preliminary list of eligible candidates on the Notice Board of the Registered Office of the Company.	: 31-08-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of appeal by aggrieved candidate(s) (if any)	: 03-08-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of hearing and disposal of appeal	: 04-09-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Last date of withdrawal of candidature	: 04-09-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of publication of final list of eligible candidates on the Notice Board of the Registered Office of the Company.	: 05-09-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of Election	: 29-09-2002
<input type="checkbox"/> Time & Place of Election	: 12-30 pm at LGED Auditorium, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of Directors to be elected	: 03 (three)

By order of the Board of Director

(Nirmal De Costa)
Company Secretary

Dhaka, 27.07.2002

Note: The nomination forms duly filled in and signed alongwith relevant documents should reach the Registered Office of the Company by 3-00 P.M. on 28.08.2002.

Islam can ensure women's security

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a dialogue here yesterday emphasised that public awareness about and adherence to Islamic principles could ensure security to the women.

They said some unfortunate incidents were taking place, particularly on the women, in the name of Islam due to inadequate knowledge about Islam, which is a complete code of life, and teachings of the holy Quran and Hadith.

The Forum on Women in Security and International Affairs (FOWSIA), a non-government organisation, organised the day-long dialogue on "Women's Security and Islam in Bangladesh".

The dialogue was split into two sessions participated by scholars of women's rights and Islamic affairs. British Council official Farah Kabir moderated the first session while Tasnim Siddiqui of political science department of Dhaka University conducted the second session.

Dr Shahnaj Huda, Dr Rowzatur Romman and Dr Razia Akter Banu of Dhaka University and Ferdous Ara Khanam of Lalmatia Girls' College presented four papers on marriage, security and inheritance of women in Bangladesh.

Former secretary and chairman of Islamic Bank Shah Abdul Hannan, pro-vice chancellor of South East University Prof Shamsher Ali, chairman of Masjid Council for Community Advancement (MACCA) Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Barrister Salma

Sobhan and Principal of Siddiqui's International School Dr Relat Ahmed took part in the discussion.

The discussants said that the women were becoming victims of deprivation, repression and other injustices in the country, specially in the rural areas, as the laws regarding the rights of women enshrined in Islam was not understood duly by the persons concerned.

Urging all to go through the holy Quran and Hadith, the speakers also laid emphasis on women's education because security comes from empowerment and empowerment can be achieved through learning.

Jamiruddin greets Peru president

UNB, Dhaka

Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday greeted President of Peru Alejandro Toledo on the occasion of the National Day of the Latin American country.

In a message, Sircar said he hopes that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

The fifth death anniversary of Jamal Ahmed will be observed today, says a press release.

Jamal Ahmed was a District Governor of Lions District 315 B, Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Goods Association and Captain of Kurmitola Golf Club.

A milad mahfil will be held at his Lalmatia residence after Asr prayers today for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

All relatives and friends have been requested to attend the milad mahfil at 10:30 am at his residence.

Residents of different dormitories have started arriving at their respective halls.

CU official source said classes and examinations of different departments would be held according to schedules.

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Please contact : Mr. Chowdhury
Tel: 017-592030.