

162 decisions fail to curb crimes

Cabinet body, home ministry now blame law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a fresh move to combat growing incidents of crime, the government is now contemplating stern action against persons whose lack of sincerity in performing their duties is retarding improvement of law and order despite a series of steps taken in this regard, sources said.

The government is now convinced that a section of field level law enforcers are grossly insincere and incompetent in curbing crimes like killing, abduction, extortion etc.

Recent incidents of abduction and killing of children have added to the concern at different levels of the government over law and order.

The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order, which took around 162 decisions at a series of meetings and brought massive changes in the police administration to improve the situation, now feels that those have failed to check crimes, the sources noted.

The committee has not met in the last one month. Its last meeting was held on July 24.

Headed by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the committee consists of Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Education Minister Dr Osman Faruq, DCC Mayor and Fisheries Minister

Sadeque Hossain Khoka and State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar. The committee was due to meet once a week and hold fortnightly meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Committee sources said the home ministry has failed to implement the decisions of committee meetings. But the home ministry denied this and claimed it has implemented 90 percent of the decisions and the rest are being implemented.

Both the cabinet body and the home ministry sources identified several factors, particularly negligence of police to duty, have been obstructing improvement of law and order.

"Besides, conflict between the home minister and the state minister for home and sharp division among top police officials are also retarding implementation of the cabinet body's decisions," one source said seeking anonymity.

Moreover, the home ministry is facing problem without a full-time secretary, Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadat Hossain is still discharging the responsibilities of home secretary.

Some officials pointed out that police showed gross negligence to duty by

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ASM NURUNNABI

As time goes by, our attitude toward many things changes due to various social, economic and political factors. In this light, a significant change seems to have also taken place in our attitude towards career.

Currently, the unemployment problem affecting our educated youths is very acute, as employment opportunities in traditional fields have shrunk and thousands of educated youths graduating from educational institutions are joining the ranks of the unemployed.

In this context, some noteworthy changes in our outlook towards certain occupations are evident, testifying to a new direction in our concept of the dignity of labour. People are becoming less choosy about the nature of jobs, although some social superstitions and conventional prejudices still persist and some educated unemployed youths are reluctant to take up certain jobs considering them as undignified.

However, many educated young men and women nowadays are overcoming age-old superstitions and prejudices, and are increasingly venturing into new occupa-

DOWN TO EARTH

Changing attitude toward careers

that the social perspective about treating such jobs as lowly should disappear under pressure of economic necessity.

It is interesting to note that our young men and women who go abroad for studies or employment do not hesitate to work as waiters, dishwashers, petrol pump attendants or taxicab drivers. So there is no reason why only social prejudice should stand in the way of our educated young men accepting such jobs within the country. It is felt that a progressive outlook on earning an honest living without being dependent on others and a greater awareness about the dignity of

labour under changed socioeconomic conditions will gradually help in opening up similar opportunities for employment in other fields for our educated unemployed youths.

For example, such opportunities already exist in coach services linking the capital with some important cities. A good number of enterprising and hardworking young men working as aides inside these buses have given a modern touch to such service. These guides can be seen in any modern air-conditioned coaches operating between Dhaka and Chittagong.

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Main suspect in inspector Kader murder case held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday arrested the main suspect, Abdul Kader, 32, in the inspector Mohammad Nazrul Islam murder case.

Nazrul Islam, 40, inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), was stabbed to death by a gang of muggers at Asad Gate on the night of July 26.

The muggers also took away his service revolver, which police could not recover yet.

The detective team led by Inspector Tofazzal Hossain arrested Kader at the Nur Chala slum in the city's Badda area at 2:30am. He was absconding since the killing.

The DB sources said Kader, when interrogated, admitted to his involvement in the killing.

Earlier, three accomplices were arrested. Pedestrians caught three muggers -- Liton Sardar, Hazrat Ali and Kamal Hossain at Asad Gate.



PHOTO: STAR

A portion of the Tarokkhal-Durannagar embankment along the Gorai River has collapsed due to heavy rainfall and erosion. River erosion has left homeless over 200 families in Sreepur Upazila, Magura.

Criminal Babu, his accomplice nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested an accused in several cases including extortion and murder and recovered a revolver from his possession.

A team of detectives led by inspector Toafazzal Hossain arrested Babu, 25, from in front of a confectionery shop at Tongi Diversion Road. The team also arrested his accomplice, Hafez Mia, 22, from Joarshahara under Badda police station following his confessional statement.

Babu is accused in the cases of Ripon and Mona murders. Ripon was murdered in front of Tangail Hotel at Moghbazar while Mona at Karwan Bazar.

He was also involved in Mukta murder. Mukta was slaughtered behind the Five Star Club at Joarshahara.

Another team of detectives headed by inspector MA Malek seized 1800 bottles of phensidyl from a truck at Asulia in the city's Uttara area Thursday evening.

Saiful Islam, 30, the truck driver and his helper Hasan Ali, 20, were arrested. The team also arrested drug peddler Yunus Mia, 32, and his accomplices Kalu Mia, 38, and Fazlur Rahman, 22.

Separate cases were filed with police stations concerned.

Accused in Rob murder case held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday arrested criminal Shaheen, 34, from Rupsha station road.

He is one of the chargesheeted accused in Awami League leader S M Rob murder case.

Rob was gunned down at noon on August 11, 2000 in front of his residence in Sonadanga residential area.

CID submitted chargesheet against 16 FIR-named accused. Of them, 11 are in jail custody while five others still at large.

Gorai erosion washing away embankment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Erosion by Gorai river in Sreepur upazila is washing away the Tarokkhal-Durannagar embankment along the river and threatening to change the course of the river.

About 60 feet area of the embankment have been washed away in the last few days and breaches have developed in it in several spots.

Talking to this correspondent, Kamaluddin Mustafa, retired chief engineer of PWD (Public Works Department) and a resident of erosion-affected Boroichara

village said, "If the embankment is washed away, the course of Gorai will be changed and it will flow through nearby Bangdubir Beel (Waterbody). If it so happens, there will be no possibility of construction of the proposed Gorai bridge in Kamarkhal on Dhaka-Khulna highway."

During a recent visit to the area this correspondent saw at least 200 families rendered homeless by the erosion and vast areas of croplands lost in the river.

The worst affected villages are Gangaramkhali, Boroichara, Durannagar, Dariapur and Tarokkhal in Dariapur union.

The local people said erosion by the Gorai is going on for the last several years but it has taken a serious turn in last three days due to downpour and onrush water from the upstream.

The affected people complained that the deputy commissioner of Magura and Water Development Board officials visited the affected areas but took no initiative to stop the erosion.

Sub-Divisional Engineer of WDB Lutfar Rahman when contacted said, "I visited the affected areas but fund not is available for any project to stop the erosion."

Delhi unveils energy conservation plan

Govt bodies asked to cut consumption by 30pc for next five years

AFF, New Delhi

India yesterday unveiled a blueprint to conserve energy and said the government would goad the private sector to slash consumption and boost productivity to revitalise the gasping economy.

The announcement at a global conference in New Delhi coincided with deepening worries in India that a thick brown haze shrouding South Asia could choke the agriculture-dependent economy of the country.

Ministers, experts and captains of industry said efforts to meet India's power needs of 100,000 megawatts could irreversibly cripple the ecology and the only mantra in hand was to drastically cut energy consumption and modernise electricity generation.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, flagging off the

conference entitled "Energy Conservation in the New Millennium", said his government would take the first steps in implementing the national action-plan on energy conservation.

"I call on all government organisations to reduce their energy consumption by 30 per cent in the next five years," Vajpayee said, adding that public buildings and state facilities must ensure guaranteed energy-efficient power supply systems.

He called on all ministries and state-run industries to log their power consumption in their annual reports and said energy-guzzling airports, ports, the military, railways and state housing must cut consumption as part of the action-plan.

"We look forward to the implementation of the

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NGO official murdered in Meherpur

UNB, Meherpur

An official of a non-government organisation was killed allegedly by its two employees at Garadove village in Gangni upazila Thursday.

Police and witnesses said the two employees, Kamar Uddin and Ahsan of 'Save the Planet Disability', came to its Garadove branch for drawing their salaries and locked in an altercation with its administrative officer Shamsul Alam.

At one stage, they punched him indiscriminately, leaving him seriously injured. He was rushed to General Hospital where he died soon after admission.

Local people caught the two employees and handed them over to police.

BTTB floats cell phone tender

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has floated an international tender for its countrywide cellular phone service, sources in the state-owned telecom monopoly said.

The BTTB is to hold a pre-bid meeting on September 24 and the bid would be opened on November 10.

Telecommunications bonds will be floated to finance the Tk 594 crore project, okayed by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) last week. The non-transferable bonds would be sold to

the commercial banks through the Bangladesh Bank, sources in the telecom ministry said.

Central bank officials said the bonds would be of five-to-seven-year tenure with a fixed yield that would be payable biannually or annually.

"The interest rate for the bonds will be determined soon after completion of necessary formalities by the Ministry of Finance," one telecom ministry official said.

The funds raised from the bonds would help the BTTB launch 250,000 GSM (Global System of Mobile Communications) service.

"If everything goes well we hope

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4 killed, 100 hurt in bldg collapse in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Four people were killed and 100 others injured, nine of them seriously, when a tin-shed school building collapsed at Kamarkhand upazila yesterday afternoon.

Witnesses said the tin-shed building of Chowbari High School collapsed at about 5:30pm under the weight of the spectators during a soccer tournament between Nalsanda and Subarna Sara teams at the school ground.

Two people died on the spot while two others on way to hospital.

One of the dead was identified as Shah Alam .36.. He hailed from Belkuchi upazila.

Nineteen of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital while eight others to Kamarkhand Upazila Health Complex and local clinics.

20 injured as JCD, transport workers clash in N' ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

At least 20 people were injured, eight with bullets, in a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists and transport workers at Charsydpur on Dhaka-Munshiganj road here yesterday.

Locals and transport workers said JCD activists allegedly led by Zakir Khan opened fire on the owner of Bikrampur Transport, Salimullah, following an altercation over traffic jam.

The JCD activists launched the attack at about 11am on their way to Muktapur.

Later, the trouble erupted at about noon when the transport workers tried to obstruct the JCD activists in Charsydpur area on their way back to Narayanganj.

About 50-60 rounds of bullets were fired and six buses damaged

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FBUTA split

UNB, Dhaka

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) formally split yesterday with formation of another committee of the apex body of the university teachers' associations.

The new committee was formed in a meeting of the pro-BNP-Jamaat representatives in the federation at the Dhaka University Club in the morning.

Prof Abul Khair, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has been elected president while Prof Khondoker Shariful Islam, general secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers' Association, secretary general.

The other office-bearers are Vice-Presidents: Prof Amin Muhammad Ali, Prof Hasan Muhammad and Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Treasurer: Ahmed Kabir Chowdhury and joint-secretary general: Dr AKM Harunur Rashid.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Khelaghar, a socio-cultural organisation, stand in a human chain on a city road yesterday, demanding security to children and trial of killers.