

## Pro-active System curbs crime

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Crime has reduced in the port city as Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) intensified their activities under the Pro-active Policing System.

The measures under the Pro-active Policing System in the last six months helped CMP curb crime and improve law and order in the city, CMP sources said quoting a recent statistics. During January 1 to June 30, the number of criminal cases filed in 12 thanas of the city came down to 1375 against 2067 of the corresponding period of last year. Incidents of serious crimes like robbery, mugging, and murder came down to a half compared to the first six months of last year.

Under the Pro-active Policing system, 42 check-posts were set up at all the entry points, important thoroughfares and intersections in the city.

Police patrols at residential areas, key-point installations, markets, banks, insurance offices, petrol pumps and

important city streets have been beefed up. Police provided around 360 Money Escort Duties to different farms and persons on an average every month.

The Record Collection Cell opened at CMP Detective Branch (DB) preserved photographs, clues of crimes and other relevant information about the criminals. List of extortionists, abductors, muggers and armed miscreants and Record Collection Cell helped easier identification and arrest of criminals.

Newly formed special monitoring team, prosecution task force, metropolitan community policing unit and introduction of computer network system were some of the important features of the Pro-active Policing system.

The special monitoring team headed by AC (DB) and comprising court police inspectors and thana police monitors arrest, bail and movement of criminals. The prosecution task force reviews important cases, helps production of witnesses and

proves the allegation against the accused.

Most of the criminals in the city are known to each others. The *mezban* (traditional feast) gives Chittagong people an opportunity for close interaction with different types of people including criminals, CMP sources said. As such, no criminal can escape arrest if people cooperate with the law enforcers.

Keeping this in mind Metropolitan Community Policing was introduced in the city on July 26 last year.

Out of 933 listed criminals of the city, 664 were arrested while 269 remained absconding, according to a recent CMP statistics. Of the arrested, 342 are in jail and 322 released on bail. The accused released on bails are under close vigilance.

Of the listed criminals 70 were top-notch ones. Of them, 60 were arrested.

Out of 466 listed extortionists, 325 were arrested. Of 107 listed abductors, 78 were arrested while 141 of 261 armed miscreants were put behind the

bar. Only 146, out of 320 listed muggers, were arrested.

Many of the arrested criminals, however, were released on bail and engaged in criminal activities again.

Twenty murders, 11 robberies, 31 mugging and 131 theft were reported in the city in the last six months (till June 30) as against 37 murders, 22 robberies, 83 mugging and 226 incidents of thefts of the corresponding period of last year.

Seventy-six incidents of oppression on women and children were reported as against 134 of previous period.

However, the statistics showed a little improvement in law and order as far as incidents of abduction and rape were concerned. During this period 18 abductions and 20 rapes were reported as against previous corresponding period's 20 and 26 respectively.

However, many of the crimes remain unrecorded as the victims do not get proper response or expected result from the authorities concerned, people and other sources said.



Dilapidated Arakan Sarak (Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway) on both sides of Kalurghat bridge causes hazardous traffic movement.

## Dacoits rule rural Chittagong

NURUL ALAM

There has been a spree of dacoities in most of the rural areas of Chittagong district, sources said.

Incidents of robbery have increased in the villages as organised gangs of dacoits are very active. They loot houses, shops, hats and bazaars free-style. A panicky situation is prevailing in the areas, sources said.

At least six people were killed during dacoity when the villagers tried to resist the miscreants in the last six months, police and other sources said.

Forty-four dacoity cases were lodged with different thanas during the period, police said.

But many of the victims do not register cases with thanas fearing police harassment, sources said.

The incidents of dacoity have

increased due to lack of proper police patrolling, sources said.

Robberies have become a regular phenomenon in some thana areas including Raozan, Fatikchhari, Patiya, Anwara, Banskali, Satkania, Hathazari, Rangunia and Chandanaish.

A number of local bazaars were looted in those areas in the past six months.

The dacoits exchanged fire with Hathazari police in June while seven police personnel were injured.

Police super Motiur Rahman told The Daily Star that measures were taken to intensify police patrol in the rural areas to contain robberies.

We have already sent a letter to higher authorities for more police force for the vulnerable areas of Chittagong, he said.

With limited police force in rural areas, it is difficult to ensure law and order, he added.

The southern part of the district was worst affected by the frequent incidents of dacoity.

In some of the villages, the residents are guarding their houses equipped with lethal weapons.

A truck driver was shot dead when he tried to resist the high-way robbers at Rangunia point on Chittagong-Kaptai highway on July 9 morning, police and witnesses said. The armed dacoits put up barricade on this highway to stop vehicles for committing robbery, witnesses said.

In another incident on the night of July 8, at least 70 shops were looted from Napora Bazar of Banskali thana, police and witness said.

A vegetable vendor was also killed as the dacoits numbering over 50 opened the fire indiscriminately during the incident.

The attack was made immedi-

ately after the weekly bazaar day at Napora, they said.

Such a free-style incident of dacoity caused panic among the people at Banskali.

On information, police raided nearby villages and arrested 12 people in this connection. But the organised dacoits were hardly nabbed, sources said.

Another major incident of looting took place at Rustam Hat, a prominent bazaar of Anwara thana area, adjacent to Banskali thana.

The dacoits amid spree of gunshots looted about 100 shops at Rustam Hat. Police personnel from the local outpost were withdrawn after this incident.

In May fifty shops were looted at gunpoint in May at Raozan Jagannath Hat, police and local sources said. Cases were lodged with Raozan thana, but none was arrested in this connection so far.

## About removing extra-bumper

MOHIT UL ALAM

Life can be sorrowfully bizarre. It strikes us most when the bizarre incident ends in death.

An orthopedic doctor of Dhaka met with his death while he was riding his motorbike and an overtaking car's extra-bumper caught his right foot and dragged him to death. The doctor had just dropped his son and wife at a school and was on his way to hospital when the fatal incident took place. Hearing a cracking sound the wife looked back only to realise that the sound came from her husband's head splitting into two as it bumped against the concrete of the road.

The car driver either did not feel the load of the dragged man or tried to speed away in fear, to

escape a possible mauling by the mob. Or, it is more likely that he was a criminal fleeing the city. Strange that police have not yet found any clue to who he was. Police's efficiency!

The tragic death has prompted the metropolitan authorities in Dhaka and Chittagong to ban using extra-bumper on automobiles.

Apparently this looks to be a fair decision, because the original bumper of any vehicle should be considered an adequate protective device, making the extra-bumper redundant. And, big vehicles like the five-tonnage lorries have such original buffer bumpers that they do not need any more extra steel load on them. But it is them, which seem to be happily wearing the extra steel rod frames of vicious shapes and weights both at the

front and at the back. Rather than a safety measure, in their case the extra-bumper is really a source of danger for human lives and for other types of vehicles.

For the private cars, however, the ban will do a disservice. As most private cars are bought by their hard-earned money, the owners naturally remain very sensitive about the protection of their cars, particularly when the rickshaws in the streets of these two cities are most happy to friction their large front wheels against the rear bumpers of the cars. Or, probably, it is because of the extra-bumper that the rickshawala (rickshawpuller) feels happy to rub his front wheel against the back of a private car. An extra-bumper saves the car from such harassment from the rickshawala.

In fact, before the ban is put

on the extra-bumper, the roads had better be made rickshaw-free, though that can never be. Besides, if we deconstruct the happening of the accident, we will see that getting one's foot trapped by the extra-bumper of a car is a very rare kind of accident, an incident of the most outlandish nature. And, if it does happen, death cannot be the consequence if the car driver stops the car at once. Here, the driver did not stop his car, which resulted in the death of the doctor.

Neither the police nor the people did stop the speeding car, which could have saved the doctor's life. So, the circumstances rather led to the doctor's death than the extra-bumper itself.

The decision of banning the extra-bumper may seem to many as overreaction.

## the week that was



Social scientist Dr. Anupam Sen of Chittagong University inaugurates a two-day documentary photo exhibition of photo journalist Rupam Chakraborty at local Shilpakala Academy here recently.

### 'Poverty more disastrous than natural calamity'

Poverty is more disastrous than natural calamity and we should try more to help eradicate the bane of poverty to develop the country, speakers said this at the biennial conference of Muslim Welfare Society.

The conference was held at Quader chamber at Agrabad in the city on Friday.

Senior Beximco official Mohammad Mohsin Chowdhury presided. The

conference was addressed by businessman Muhammad Ismail Bali, Muslim Welfare Society chief executive Muhammad Zobaer, Moulana Mostafizur Rahman, Nazimuddin Chowdhury Annel, writer Kashem Ibne Sultan, Zakaria Chowdhury and Nurul Alam.

### Implementation of agreement demanded

Leaders of Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation, Chittagong

chapter, at a meeting said the labour law has long been ignored and violated in most of the factories in Chittagong.

They demanded immediate implementation of the 9-point agreement signed last year and threatened of greater agitation against the garment owners if their agreement was not implemented.

The meeting was held on Friday at its Pahartali central office with Arif Mohammad Monju in the chair. Federation leaders Md Enayet Hossain Khan, Anwar Hossain, Faye Ahmad, Akhi Akhtar and Ayesha Akhtar Poppy also spoke at the meeting.

### Book reading programme

The prize giving ceremony of the book reading programme of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Patiya chapter was held on Thursday at the Abdur Rahman Government Girls High School auditorium.

Acting head mistress Anubha Hore chaired the function. Noted economist and Professor of Chittagong University Dr. Moynul Islam and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Patiya Zakir Hossain Kamal were present as guests of honour.

Assistant Commissioner (Land) Nafiza Shyama, Chittagong chapter Sahitya Kendra organiser Alex Alim,

### Vive la surrogate motherhood



A peacock chick follows its surrogate chicken-mother while foraging for food at the Chittagong Zoo where the ingenious caretaker uses plentifully available chickens to incubate peahen eggs.

school teacher Rashidul Haq, unit in-charge of Chittagong Mobile Library Dipankar Das and leader of Patiya Kendra Shahidul Islam Ahsan also addressed the function. Later, prizes were distributed to around 100 students of the school for their performance in book reading programme.

### Art competition for school students

The Karnaphuli Art Class organised an art competition for school students on Friday.

About 400 students of Chattagram Bandar High School took part in the competition. Deputy commandant of Marine Academy Md Golam Rasul and Chief Planning of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Hadi Hossain Babul jointly inaugurated the contest.

A brief discussion was also held with school headmaster Muktar Hossain in the chair. Project director of

commissioners Jafar Alam, Farid Ahmad, Monzurul Alam Monzu, SM Shahidullah, Golam Haider Mintu, Giasuddin, Tarek Solaiman Selim, Shahidul Alam, MA Naser, Hasina Jafar, Zobaira Nargis Khan, Rehana Kabir Ranu and Afroza Kalam addressed the meeting.

### Barrister Ishtiaq's death condoled

Leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) and Press Club in a statement expressed deep shock at the death of renowned lawyer and constitution expert Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmad. They said Barrister Ishtiaq guided the nation towards its right path through his wisdom. He had also contribution in democratic movements of the country.

Press Club president Abu Sufian, general secretary Kalim Sarwar, CUJ president Mostak Ahmad and general secretary Shahid-ul Alam said, "Barrister Ishtiaq played an important role for separation of judiciary for which he will be remembered with respect." The leaders prayed for the salvation of his departed soul.

### Memorial meetings

Chittagong city unit and Omar Ghani MES College unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) organised two separate meetings on Sunday in observance of the third anniversary of the eight murders that took place at Bohaddarhat on July 12 in 2000.

BCL leaders at the meetings demanded immediate arrest of the chargesheeted accused. BCL central leader Nazmul Haq Duke, city leaders Didarul Alam, Sujit Das and Akhtar Hossain Khan, CU leader Kazi Mazharul Islam and Commerce College leader Abdullah Al Mamun addressed the meeting of city unit held at Priya Community centre.

BCL leaders Wasimuddin Chowdhury, Fazlul Kabir Sohel,



A debate workshop and exhibition was jointly organised by Bengali daily the Prothom Alo and Natua, a cultural organisation in the city here recently. BTV debate director Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury is seen with the participants after the traditional format debate at the function titled, "Prothom Alo Alokitto Natua Debate Workshop and Exhibition-03".

### Dr. Siraj to attend HIV congress

Noted physician on skin and AIDS expert in Chittagong Dr. AQM Sirajul

Islam left Dhaka on Saturday for Paris to attend the second International Congress on 'HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment' started from Sunday.

Dr. Siraj went there at the invitation of the International Award Programme for his contribution to the treatment of AIDS patients in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Medical Teachers Association Federation press release said.



Aungon, a cultural organisation of Chittagong University students, formed a human chain in front of press club in the city here recently to protest fee-hike.



Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) organised a seminar on genetic health information and service on the occasion of the World Population Day on July 11. State Minister for Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury is seen among others at the seminar organized under the auspices of United Nations Fund for Population (UNFP).