

High: 33° C Low: 27° C

warm, humid Tuesday High: 33° C

thunderstorms Wednesda

Low: 29° C

Low: 28° C

Friday High: 33° C

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## Criminal cops become a headache

SULTANA RAHMAN

Involvement of members of the law-enforcing agencies in crime has seen a worrying rise recently. According to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) sources, a total of 132 offenses by the police have been reported from January to August 8 this year in the metropolis alone. Last year 123 such cased had been registered during the same period.

The crimes by the law enforcers include robbery, extortion, mugging, drug peddling, rape and violence against women. Interestingly, those charged are mostly low ranking police employees like constables, ASIs and SIs.

"The criminal activities by a few policemen has tarnished the image of the whole department," said former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr

Enamul Haque. "Now the situation has gone beyond normal," he added.

Former police high-ups blamed lack of supervision by senior officials according to the chain of command as one of the main reasons behind crime by

"From the top official to the bottom-ranked personnel, every policeman maintains an official Personal Dairy (PD) and Tour Diary (TD) where all their activities are supposed to be written. If these PDs and TDs are followed and checked by respective senior officials, such crimes would come down drastically," said ex-IGP Ashraful Huda.

"If these dairies are monitored properly and regularly. then it becomes easy to detect the movements of a policeman," said Ashraful Huda who also thought that the Police Head Quarter's security cell at the



Four policemen including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) in the city were arrested for snatching 13.5 kilogram silver ornaments and extorting Tk 28,000 from two employees of a jewellery house on July 21.

Police Head Quarters, which monitors and investigates criminal involvement of policemen, was not that well equipped to handle the matter.

Meanwhile, criminal incidents by the police show no signs of ceasing. Two cops along with two police informants were arrested at Shyampur on August 2 after they had allegedly robbed a rice-seller at Srinagar in Munshiganj of Tk 3.3 lakh. The rice-seller caught the cops with the help of an angry mob who beat them up before handing them over to the police. On July 21, four policemen were arrested for stealing 13.5 kilograms of silver and Tk 28,000 in cash from an employee of a gold shop in the capital.

On June 29, sergeant Zulfikar Ali robbed a businessman of Tk 14.47 lakh at Bijoynagar. He had since been remanded thrice and sent to jail but the booty was yet to be recovered. Three policemen were arrested on April 10 at Shyampur on charges of extorting money from the owner of an auto-rickshaw garage. SI Hafizur Rahman of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) was held on March 3 at Khilgaon for robbing a rice wholesaler.

Former IGPs Dr Enamul Haque, Nurul Huda and Ashraful Huda said that based on experience, they think that rampant political influence in the recruitment process of police had spoiled the department. They said the government should take urgent initiatives to motivate the cops and make them aware of the dignity and responsibility of the uniform they wear. They also felt that the Police Verification Report (PVR) process during recruitment should be further strengthened as people can literally buy a PVR by bribing certain inspec-

SAVING BURIGANGA, TURAG FROM ENCROACHMENT

## 303 illegal structures demolished in 3 days



BIWTA officials evicting croachers and pulling illegal structures on the banks of

the river Turag in

**FAIZUL KHAN TANIM** 

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) during a three-day drive from August 8 to 10 demolished at least 303 illegal structures constructed encroaching parts of the Buriganga and Turag rivers

On the first day, 24 illegal establishments were removed from the encroached part of the Buriganga -- from Keraniganj to Kholamura and Kamrangirchar.

cials, 55 policemen and

around 170 workers took part in the seven and a half hours' eviction drive.

On the second day, 204 illegal structures were demolished by the BIWTA. The drive was conducted by six platoons of police, Ansar and around 150 workers.

The final day's operation took place at Chhotadia in Mirpur, Sinnirtek, Harirampur, Chhoto Diabari and Jahurabad along the Turag.

A BIWTA team comprising a magistrate, 160 policemen and workers drive at Chhotadia

led another demolition team in other encroached areas The demolialong the Turag. Hundreds of local people tion drive is welcomed the eviction drive

part of a pro-

the Buriganga

iect to save

and Turag

further

from getting

encroached

of the illegal establishments tried to resist the BIWTA The demolition drive is part of a project to save the Buriganga and Turag from

in demolishing the illegal

and helped the BIWTA teams

structures. However, owners

and keep them free from pollution. BIWTA sources said

more than a half of the

getting encroached anymore

Magistrate Mafidur Rahman work on constructing a road near the Buriganga embankment has already been done and a new walkway has been constructed near Keraniganj. More walkways will be built along the river and walls will be erected at several places along the bank to stop encroachment.

**BIWTA's Senior Deputy** Director Saiful Hag Khan said after the antiencroachment drive the bulk area will come under a plantation programme, which has already started in few places.

## Osmani Udyan development project set to kick off this month

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

The first phase of the Osmani Udyan development project is expected to start this month.

The park had become a temporary bus stand and had been occupied by floating people and criminals over the last few years.

Although a case is being contested in court over a 2.83 acre land out of the park's total

ties have also included that disputed portion in its Tk 2.93 crore development and beautification project.

"We are very confident of getting the verdict in our favour within a short time and that is why we have added this part in the project," said Abu Taleb, chief estate officer of Dhaka City Corporation

Officials said that at the

beginning of the development work, they would run an eviction drive against the encroachers.

"The tender process and other preparations are complete and we are ready to start work shortly," said Sharif Uddin, executive engineer of DCC Zone-5.

The entire project is being implemented under suggestions from two committees involving representatives from the civil society, educationists and environmentalists.

In the first phase the DCC will fence off the total park area with a combination of iron grills and bushy plants. There will also be an artificial lake on the eastern side of the park. The existing pond inside the park will be integrated with the lake.

"This lake will enhance the beauty of the park as well as the Gulistan area. At the same time it will prevent the encroachers," said the executive engineer. The first phase also includes a plantation

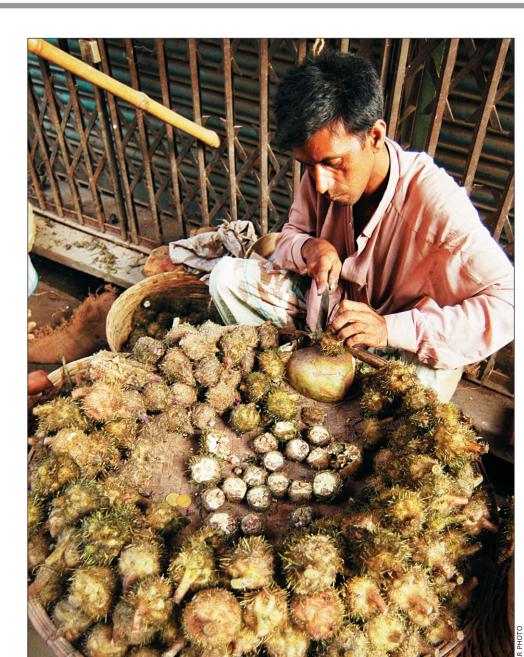
programme. "In few places the plants have been grown in an unplanned way and in certain areas they have totally disappeared. We have suggested removal of unplanned and harmful plants," said professor Sirajul Islam, chairman Osmani Udyan development beautification and modernisa-

The walkways inside the park will be reconstructed. For the joggers and the visitors, concrete benches will be set up and other civic facilities will

The second phase of the development will also kick off soon, said officials. Under the second phase, eleven fountains bearing the names of eleven sector commanders during the War of Liberation, a children's park and an open stage for cultural activities will be constructed.

"This park is historically very important and we believe this is our chance to show our heartiest respect to the brave sons of the country," said Professor Sirajul Islam.





Sales of Makna, a seasonal fruit in monsoon has become a rare sight in the capital, but is yet popular in the old quarters of the city. This photograph of a vendor with his ware was taken at Chalkbazar yesterday.

Floating people reign Osmani Udyan.