

Wholesale arrest

FROM PAGE 1
law enforcement agencies to take steps for preventing recurrence of such an incident.

Sources said the committee stressed on proper transmission of decisions taken at higher levels of different security agencies regarding stopping of torture and rights violation by law enforcers to the thana level.

LIST OF CRIMINALS

The meeting asked law enforcement and intelligence agencies to cross-check names of criminal suspects and their godfathers which had appeared on the lists they had prepared earlier.

It asked the law enforcers to prepare a composite list by properly verifying the names through checking those at local levels in a bid to minimise the risk of including innocent people's names. "Arresting criminal suspects according to the old list will not do," said Mainul.

The committee discussed the possibility of halting the practice of issuing anticipatory bail to identified criminal suspects, their godfathers and influential suspects during the anti-crime drive.

POLICING
Expressing satisfaction over the improvement in law and order situation, the committee asked law enforcement agencies to maintain the improvement and concentrate on implementing the emergency rules, said the sources.

The committee instructed law enforcers to arrest immediately the perpetrators of Saturday's bomb attack on a Rab vehicle at Gulistan in the capital.

It also talked about the status of investigation of former finance minister SAMS Kibria killing case.

The committee discussed Dhaka Metropolitan Police's traffic management system and the problem of beggars in the capital, especially on VIP roads, which according to several participants, is tarnishing the image of the country.

While discussing the backlog in adjudication of cases, the meeting participants were told that just 20 percent of the accused are successfully sentenced and the pace

Fake blood bank

FROM PAGE 1
patient who had undergone surgery that day was discovered by the court.

The court filed a case against Shahidul Islam Swapani, the owner of the hospital and Jalaluddin, the manager, under the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) act and fined them Tk 1 lakh.

After that, Sigma Medical Services on the same road was raided by the court. The court did not find a single staff there, who was trained properly. The telephone operator of the centre does the blood transfusion, it was found. No physician was present at the hospital during the raid.

The court also discovered a bucket full of used disposal syringes for throwing away in the dustbins instead of being destroyed properly.

The court filed a case against Shah Monir Hossain, the owner, and Mir Kashim Bhuiyan, the manager, under the DCC act and also fined them Tk 1 lakh.

Later the court went to the Mohanagar Blood Bank at 22/11,

No rules or orders

FROM PAGE 1
within its limited timeframe. "For that, we will have to depend on the support and help from an honest, responsible and constructive journalism."

He urged members of the media to uphold their professional ethics, applying their editorial judgment and conscience to demonstrate that the press in Bangladesh is a responsible one.

The adviser in-charge of information came under intense criticism from the editors and senior journalists who called to question the need for introducing restrictions on the press which, they alleged, would deter them from performing their professional responsibilities.

They pointed out that if they are not allowed to function professionally and exercise their freedom to tell the truth the very objective of the interim caretaker government to set things right and to ensure a free and fair election would be defeated.

The editors called for taking the press into confidence, pointing out that the media so far have performed their professional tasks with courage and responsibility, always pointing their fingers at all kinds of social injustice, corruption and administrative wrongdoings.

Acting editor of the daily Itefaq Rahat Khan, editors Mabubul Alam of The Independent, Shafiq Rehman of Jai Jin Din, Matiur Rahman of the daily Prothom Alo, Mahfuz Anam of the Daily Star, Golam Sarwar of the daily Jugantar, Bazlur Rahman of the daily Sangbad,

2,153 more

FROM PAGE 1
Jhenidah by the joint forces as well. Meanwhile, the executive director of Sathkhira-based NGO Uttaran was sent to jail yesterday on one month's detention.

During the joint drive, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 2,004 people in 24 hours till 6:00pm yesterday. Among them, 18 were held under Arms Act, three under Explosive Substances Act, 41 were fugitive convicts, 1,016 had arrest warrants against them and 926 were picked up on other charges.

Besides, the army arrested 147 people, 41 of them are listed criminals, and 106 other accused, said a home ministry news release yesterday.

The army recovered 11 firearms while police and Rab did 15. The law enforcers also recovered 66 bullets and 14 homemade bombs during the drive.

The joint forces so far arrested over 30,650 people since they launched the anti-crime drive on January 12 -- the day after the state of emergency was imposed in the country.

"The hawkers may either be allowed to sit on an open field seven days a week or on some streets, which do not remain that much busy, for certain hours everyday," a meeting source said, quoting the proposal.

FERTILISER & DIESEL SMUGGLING, BORDER SITUATION

The meeting, while discussing smuggling of fertiliser and diesel out of the country, instructed Bangladesh Rifles and Coast Guard to put an end to the illegal trade.

The meeting discussed that the Indian Border Security Force had reinforced itself by adding another 25,000 personnel and set up modern sophisticated weapons including sniper rifles and radars along the border. The meeting expressed concern over the rising number of Bangladeshi nationals being killed on the border.

The home secretary, inspector general of police, and director generals of Rapid Action Battalion, National Security Intelligence, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, Bangladesh Rifles, and Ansar were present at the meeting among other high officials of the agencies.

Sohel Taj

FROM PAGE 1
Upset, Shohel told The Daily Star that he went to the DGFI office and asked the officials about the reason for their action.

"All they told me was they had instructions from the high-ups," he said adding, "I will write to the chief adviser to the caretaker government tomorrow [today] to know why and on whose orders I've been prevented from visiting India."

He claimed that there is no arrest warrant against him and neither does he stand accused in any case for corruption or other criminal activities. He said he wondered why they should do this when he was to represent Bangladesh Awami League at the international event.

He alleged that the image of his family has been tarnished because of the incident. "Now who will be liable for damaging my family's reputation?" he asked.

"I've been harassed for nothing when the corrupt leaders, black money holders and godfathers belonging to the immediate past ruling alliance remain untouched," added the AL leader.

Also son of AL Presidium Member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, he said he has informed AL President Sheikh Hasina of the matter immediately and she has expressed disappointment over the way he was treated.

Of the two-member AL delegation, the party's Women Affairs Secretary Dr Dipu Moni left for the Indian capital Saturday. The BNP delegation comprising Riaz Rahman and Enam Ahmed Chowdhury flew to India yesterday, said immigration sources.

Sathkhira editor

FROM PAGE 16
Sathkhira Chitra published from Sathkhira town. He came under attack at Pal Para intersection in the town.

Locals rescued Prof Anis in a critical condition and sent him to Sathkhira Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested the alleged assailants, Litu, younger brother of district Awami Svechchabasek League convenor Maroof Hasan Mithu, Bayezid and Abdus Sattar from Sultnara area.

A case was filed with Sadar thana accusing Litu, Bayezid and two others.

Local journalists in a statement yesterday condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals.

Protect HR

FROM PAGE 1
the arrestees.

She was talking to the reporters after meeting Law Adviser Mainul Hosein at his office in the morning.

"A lot of people in Bangladesh and we are concerned about the freedom of the press. I hope the government will expand the boundaries of press freedom," she said adding that the country enjoys a free and lively press that is the foundation of democracy.

On the next parliamentary election, Butenur said, "It is the responsibility of the government and the people of Bangladesh to fix the election date."

The US envoy said her government had raised the annual assistance to Bangladesh by 10 percent and there will be even more in the next fiscal year.

Earlier, Butenur had a meeting with Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam.

President Iajuddin Ahmed has recently promulgated a set of emergency rules designed to curb political and media rights.

The UK envoy Anwar Choudhury, who too met the finance adviser the same day, told journalists that they are always in favour of the press freedom and human rights in Bangladesh.

He said he hopes the government act to shield individual liberty as well as freedom of the media. "We'll continue to look at the issues," he added.

He said they had talked about issues of different ministries that concern the UK.

"We've discussed how to continue the existing projects so that their progress is not blocked," he said, replying to a query.

Mirza Azizul Islam said the United States and the United Kingdom have pledged continued support for the development of the country.

Each of them considers Bangladesh an important partner and wants it to have faster economic growth, he told reporters after meeting the envoys separately at his office.

"These rules give authorities sweeping powers of censorship that will deprive Bangladeshi citizens of independent information at this critical time," said Joel Simon, CPJ's executive director.

"We call on the interim government to rescind these repressive rules immediately."

Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 1

of making hurry... We do not want to return to the path of conflict by making hurry."

He suggested that the Election Commission, the Public Service

Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission must be purged of corruption and inefficiencies. "We want a permanent solution to the problems," he said.

Prof Yunus left for the Indian capital to attend the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Satyagraha' campaign and the opening of Grameen Trust India in Mumbai.

YUNUS TO RECEIVE ANOTHER AWARD

UNB says: Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus will receive the first Social Entrepreneur Award of the Year at Pepperdine School of Law in California, USA.

The Geoffrey Palmer Center for Social Entrepreneurship and the Law at the Pepperdine School of Law has selected him for the award.

Professor Janet Kerr, Associate Professor Melanie Howard and Kimberley Reits of the University of Pepperdine School of Law informed Prof Yunus about their selection at Grameen Bank head office in Dhaka on January 24.

Top management of Grameen Bank and heads of its sister concerns were present.

They talked about how social entrepreneurship is fast becoming one of the most popular areas of study for young people in Pepperdine, as they become increasingly interested in business which generates not just profit but also social good.

Grameen Bank is "the best example of social enterprise," they said.

Prof Yunus said that he was touched by the fact that Pepperdine had brought the award to Bangladesh. He talked about the importance of the relationship between law and the work of Grameen as the law represents one of the institutions that has "helped create the world we live in. To change the world, we would have to change the law".

An endowment fund would be created with the Nobel Peace Prize money won by Grameen Bank, the

proceeds from which would be used for establishing a Grameen Nobel Scholarship reserved for the children of

Grameen borrowers to enable them to study in institutions of higher learning not just in Bangladesh but in premier educational institutions around the world.

Prof Yunus proposed that one seat be reserved at the Pepperdine Law School for the son or daughter of a Grameen borrower who is interested in studying law, a proposal that was enthusiastically received by the representatives from the School at the US university.

More VoIP devices

FROM PAGE 16

about 3:00am at Banamala Road, the Rab intelligence unit members also arrested three for running the illegal business. They are -- Arifur Rahaman, Hazrat Ali and Mohammad Sayeed.

The Rab team caught Arifur Rahaman first and later nabbed his two accomplices at the Banamala rail-crossing slum after chasing them down.

Arif had been operating the business for many years with the help of his brother Sharif who lives in Kuwait, Rab officials said.

A total of 13 unauthorised VoIP business centres -- 10 in the capital and three in Chittagong -- were busted by Rab from December 26 last year to January 26.

Illegal VoIP operators use the equipment to generate or terminate overseas calls by first turning voice calls into data, routing it over the Internet and then turning the data into voice again.

Unscrupulous businessmen use this method, also known as Internet Telephony, which bypasses BTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board), the sole carrier for overseas calls in Bangladesh, and thus get away without paying huge revenue.

According to official data, the overall annual earning of BTB dropped sharply by Tk 267 crore during the last five years, as the immediate past alliance government did not take any actions against the illegal business.

Prof Yunus said that he was touched by the fact that Pepperdine had brought the award to Bangladesh. He talked about the importance of the relationship between law and the work of Grameen as the law represents one of the institutions that has "helped create the world we live in. To change the world, we would have to change the law".

Grameen Bank is "the best example of social enterprise," they said.

They talked about how social entrepreneurship is fast becoming one of the most popular areas of study for young people in Pepperdine, as they become increasingly interested in business which generates not just profit but also social good.

Prof Yunus said that he was touched by the fact that Pepperdine had brought the award to Bangladesh. He talked about the importance of the relationship between law and the work of Grameen as the law represents one of the institutions that has "helped create the world we live in. To change the world, we would have to change the law".

An endowment fund would be created with the Nobel Peace Prize money won by Grameen Bank, the

CA updates

FROM PAGE 1

farmers and reduce the gas crisis.

"The caretaker government has already undertaken different programmes to face the situation in power sector," he said.

The chief adviser informed the president about strengthening relations with the neighbouring countries and the upcoming Saarc Summit.

President Iajuddin expressed satisfaction over the initiatives taken by the caretaker government of Dr Fakhruddin after taking the charge.

The president stressed the need for developing standard of education.

He also called upon all concerned to work "sincerely to build a beautiful and prosperous country".

3 'muggers'

FROM PAGE 16

Witnessing the incident, two people -- Abdul Karim and Russell chased the muggers and cried out for help. Locals came forward and managed to stop one of the auto-rickshaws. They beat up the three muggers to death on the spot.

The identity of the dead could not be known.

The other muggers, however, escaped the public wrath with the money.

Chandgaon police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies, a locally made gun, a machete, and the auto-rickshaw.

DIG (Prisons) Haider told The Daily Star last evening that they will send the mercy petitions of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai and suicide bomber Iftekhar Ali Mamun today to the home ministry.

The jail authority yesterday sent the mercy petitions of Majlis-e-Shura (JMB's highest policymaking body) members Ataur Rahman Sunny, Abdul Awal and Khaled Saifullah to the president, he added.

Inspector General (Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hasan told The Daily Star, "Whatever date we initially fix for executing the condemned militants, we will have to wait for the president's decision."

If the president turns down the mercy petitions, the jail authorities will re-fix the date within 21-28 days from the date of receiving the copy of this decision, he said.

However, according to the law, only the person who has lost reputation, name and fame for newspaper reports or anyone's behaviour can file defamation cases.

On January 21, Siraj, on behalf of Mamun, filed a similar case with the CMM's court against the Jugantor editor, publisher and its proprietor for allegedly running a defamatory news item.

The court, however, ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter.

However, according to the law, only the person who has lost reputation, name and fame for newspaper reports or anyone's behaviour can file defamation cases.