

# Crimes on rise in port city

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Incidents of mugging, burglary and robbery have increased sharply in recent months in the port city.

Three gruesome murders were enough to evoke chilling reminders of criminal activities, thanks largely to the inaction or inept security measures of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The conscious people believe that an indiscreet decision by the authorities concerned coupled with hasty action to evict slum dwellers or hawkers at major metropolis and elsewhere, including Chittagong, helped aggravate the criminal activities to a great extent.

At least 40 spots in the port city are vulnerable to mugging and other crimes and 15 to 20 gangs of criminals are behind this.

Kotwali area topped the list of the crime spots followed by Love Lane Intersection near DC Hill, Nandankanan, Naval Avenue near Chittagong Stadium, the road in front of Chittagong Club and Engineers Institute, Chittagong College Road, Gani Bakery area, Wasa Intersection, Jamiatul Falah Mosque area, CDA Avenue, GEC Intersection, Pahartali Eye Hospital area, Gole Pahar, Mehdibag, Katapahar, Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal, AK

Khan Gate, Bayezid Bostami area, Sholoshahar Gate No-2, Muradpur Mazar area, Katalganj, Dev Pahar, Badsha Miah Road near War Cemetery, MM Ali Road near Shilpakala Academy, Tiger Pass, Agrabad Access Road, Cement Crossing, Enayet Bazar, Railway Station and EPZ area.

Besides three murders in April and May, over 30 incidents of mugging and around 10 robberies took place in the CMP areas with many incidents across the nook and cranny of the city remained unreported.

Most of the crimes were perpetrated by using CNG auto-rickshaw. The criminals carried their activities in the guise of co-passengers and sometimes applying balm in the eyes of the victims.

Abdus Sobhan alias Rony, a former student leader and supervisor of a garments factory, fell victim to a gruesome murder on May 28 on his way back to home.

A gang of five muggers intercepted Rony at Shahid Saifuddin Khaled Road while he was going in a rickshaw. The muggers stabbed him repeatedly as he tried to resist them and looted his mobile, money and other valuables. While fleeing in a CNG auto-rickshaw, the criminals cut the artery of Rony, leaving him in a pool of blood. Locals rushed him to the Chittagong Medical College

Hospital (CMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries.

The robbers strangled a housewife named Tocky Mitra at Jaliganj in Patharghata on May 22 before taking away Tk 10,000 and 20 tolas of gold ornaments.

On April 13, grocery shop owner Babul Mazumder was stabbed to death by the criminals while he was returning home from Pahartali. A gang of four stopped his CNG auto-rickshaw, get in quickly and looted every thing before stabbing him indiscriminately. The on-duty doctors of CMCH declared him dead after half an hour.

Sources in police said the incidents of mugging and other crimes might have risen in the port city due to eviction of footpath hawkers and slum dwellers.

Finding no alternative to livelihood, they get engaged in such crimes in total desperation, they said.

CMP authorities at a meeting with journalists recently said 30 incidents of crime in the port city take place through CNG auto-rickshaw and a section of the drivers have link with the gangs.

Assistant Commissioner (detective branch) Ashiqul Islam Bhuiyan said they have engaged round-the-clock patrol teams at 28 key and vulnerable points in the port city and the vigilance will be increased to check the crimes.



Residential plots are being developed at Debarpar, Lalkhan Bazar, Sholoshahar, Khulshi and Bayezid Bostami areas in the port city by cutting hills indiscriminately, posing a threat to both lives and properties. Over 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured due to devastating landslides in these areas on June 11.

# Date-expired medicines on sale in Ctg markets

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Sale of date-expired and contraband medicines continues unabated in the port city by a section of unscrupulous traders under the nose of administration.

The patients are falling prey to the immoral and criminal business by the unscrupulous traders.

The authorities concerned and doctors termed it a criminal act, saying it will pose serious hazard for human health.

The patients as well as sections concerned said the illegal trading is going on due to poor inspection by the drug administration.

A mobile court during its drives recently found two pharmacies and a drug store of a clinic, run by a non-government organisation (NGO), were selling date-expired medicines.

The court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Md Munir Chowdhury raided M/s Helal Medico at Bandartila area of

South Halishahar on June 3 and seized date-expired and contraband medicines worth around Tk

1 lakh.

The court during the drive in cooperation with the drug admin-

istration seized huge medicines including tablet, capsule and injection meant for different dis-

eases like diabetes as well as anti-biotic and painkiller, with their dates expired in between 2001 and 2006.

The same court in a separate drive on June 6 found M/s Janani Medicine Centre at Halishahar DT Road is conserving and selling date-expired and contraband drugs, including 'Viagra'.

Munir Chowdhury told journalists that he had enough proof of the involvement of many pharmacies in densely populated areas like EPZ industrial zone and its surrounding Halishahar, Bandartila and Steel Mill, in such criminal activities.

Many people specially the labourers and members of lower middle class families, who hardly care about date expiry, usually buy medicines from the pharmacies without consulting the doctors.

Rahela Begum, a garments worker, was seen buying a painkiller for her acute headache from a pharmacy without any advice from a physician in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ)

area on Friday morning.

Rahela said she never heard of expiry dates of drugs.

Atikul Islam, an administrative officer at CEPZ, also has the similar view, saying he too rarely takes note of the dates when he buys medicines.

A section of dishonest traders sell tablets erasing the portion where the dates are printed, he added.

The mobile court, which now appears as the lone saviour to check the dishonest act, continued its drive against the drug dealers and pharmacies.

The mobile court sources said it unearthed conserving and selling of date-expired medicines in 10 pharmacies and one private clinic in the city during its drives in six months since June in 2006.

Around 3,000 pharmacies are doing business in the city legally with drug licences, said a drug administration official.

In addition to these, the illegal pharmacies have mushroomed in the densely populated areas like

Bakalia, Chandanpura, Kalurghat industrial area. They are running their business without any drug licences and required pharmacists, the official said.

Kanchan Mitra, owner of a pharmacy at Sheikh Mujib Road, said local pharmaceutical companies like Beximco, Opsonin, Square, Incepta, Acme, Reneta, Biopharm and others are supposed to take back the unsold date-expired drugs and return the money against those items to them.

The traders are forced to sell date-expired medicines as most of the companies refuse to take back the unsold drugs, he added.

Omar Ibne Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Association, said regular inspection by the drug administration authorities could control such a practice.

Ruhul Amin, one of the two superintendent officers of the divisional office of Drug Administration, said they try their level best to carry out continuous

inspection in the pharmacies despite shortage of manpower.

Only two officers and four clerks of the divisional office are to manage the whole administrative work in Chittagong district and Rangamati, he added.

Dr Md Abu Sayeed, assistant professor of the medicine ward of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said date-expired medicines can play no role in improving illness rather act as poison.

A patient suffering from diseases meningitis or infections that badly need anti-biotic risks death through taking date-expired antibiotics, he said.

Taking such date-expired drugs might even lead to toxic reaction in different organs of the body like liver, stomach and intestine, he added.

Unilever prize giving ceremony held

Prize giving ceremony of annual sports and cultural programme of Unilever Bangladesh Limited was held in the port city on Friday.

Unilever Bangladesh Limited Sports and Recreation Club organised the function at Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong auditorium.

The company Chairman Rakesh Mohon was the chief guest while Human Resources

Director BP Bidappa and Supply Chain Director Emran Momin were present as special guests.

General Factory Manager Rajib Barua presided.

Production Manager Mahmud Hasan Khan, Factory Personnel Manager Muhammad Sanaulah, Buying and Export Manager Moslem Uddin, Human Resources Manager Sheikh Tashfin Islam, Unilever Employees Union President M Shahidul Alam and General Secretary Selim Anayet also spoke.

Over 300 participants of Kalurghat Factory contested in 33 indoor and outdoor events of the annual sports.

Swarup Sharma and Mohammad Alamgir became champions jointly in indoor group while Bazlud Rahman Bhuiyan became runners-up.

Mohammad Shahjahan became first while Sudip Kumar Day runner-up in the outdoor group.

Singer Doly Sayantani and Close Up-1 star Sonia enthralled the

Chief Executive Officer of Warid Telecom Munir Faruquee speaks at a function at Chittagong Club auditorium

Warid Telecom, the country's new cellphone operator, organised a three-day festivity titled Warid Day from Friday with a view to capturing the market in the port city.

The main feature of the festivity was road shows at 15 city points around its franchise and sale centres, beside video projection on large screen, game shows and on-the-spot prize giving ceremony.

Warid arranged a cultural function and traditional Chittagonian Mezbani at the auditorium of Chittagong Club on Friday. Attractions of the night were singers Aiyub Bachchu and Tishma alongside the folk songs and dance by the local artists.

Being the commercial capital of the country, Chittagong offers immense business opportunity for the mobile company. It is a special market for Warid, said Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq, senior marketing manager.

port for Ma-Shishu Hospital

Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd (Kafco) donated a Central Oxygen System and one 150 KVA Generator at a cost of Tk 50 lakh to Chittagong Ma-Shishu and General Hospital.

Kafco Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Qaiser Jamal inaugurated the newly installed equipments at a ceremony on Monday.

The hospital authorities thanked the Kafco for such a noble gesture and hoped that the equipments will help render better healthcare services to the patients.

Shoeb wins 5 int'l prizes

Soeb Faruquee, founding director of "Photo Art Institute" and "Photo Bank Gallery" in Chittagong, won highest five prizes in a photography exhibition held in Geneva in May.

World Health Organisation (WHO) organised the competition titled "Health and Environment" held in different categories -- colour, black, white and digital.

The participating countries include United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia and India.

Shoeb earlier obtained a total of 40 prizes in different international competitions, including World Press Prize.

Call to ensure birth registration

A daylong workshop on "Birth Registration for All" was held in the port city on Wednesday.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) acting mayor M Majur Alam inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest. CCC organised the workshop.

The mayor said birth registration is very important for national policy introduction and development, good governance and protecting child rights.

He called upon all to implement the birth-death registration law-2004 projected to ensure the registration of all by 2008.

The CCC has formed a task force to ensure birth registration.

held

Second anniversary of Bank Alfalah Limited was observed in the port city on Tuesday.

On this occasion, a discussion, milad mahfil and feast were organised at the bank's Agrabad branch in the evening.

Businessmen and industrialists of Chittagong attended the programmes.

The Bank Chief Manager Mohammad Ali Chowdhury said being the sister concern of the Dhabi Group of the United Arab Emirates, the bank has been conducting both Islamic and general banking.

Shishu Utsab reunion held

A reunion of Shishu Utsab was held at Chittagong Academy auditorium on Thursday.

Shishuder Pathshala, a children's organisation, organised the programme.

Dean of Chittagong University (CU) Social Science faculty and Chairman of Shishu Utsab

Prof Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin was the chief guest with drama personality Pradip Dewanji in the chair.

Speakers emphasised the need for entertainment-oriented education for proper growth of the children.

Form community police to check crimes

An awareness-building meeting of community policing system was held at Kelishahar union under Patiya upazila in the district on Tuesday.

Patiya Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shahidul Alam presided over the meeting with the union Parishad (UP) Chairman Jasim Uddin in the chair.

Speakers said it is quite impossible to tackle robbery, stealing and other incidents of crime with only few policemen in the large upazila of 22 unions.

the week that was

Noted Indian Odissi dancer Kiran Segal and her troupe perform at the auditorium of Engineers Institution, Chittagong on June 6 organised by Indian Assistant High Commission.