

# Crimes on rise in port city

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

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 indiscretion 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, Meh dibag, 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 Shilpakali 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 perpetuated by using CNG auto-rickshaw. The criminals carried their activities in the guise of 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 Jalilganj in Patharghat 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.

ZUBAYER HOSSAIN SIDDIQUE

# Date-expired medicines on sale in Ctg markets

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

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

11 lakh. The court during the drive in cooperation with the drug admini-

stration 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

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.



A mobile court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury found date-expired injections and saline during a drive at a drug store.

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 Sanaullah,

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.

Mo h a m m a d

Shahjahan became

first while Sudip

Kumar Dey runner-

up in the outdoor

group.

Singer Doly

Sayantan and Close

Up-1 star Sonia

enthralled the

audiences at the cultural function.

**Warid Day celebrated**

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

Chittagong Mezban 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 artistes.

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.

Shobir 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)

on Monday.

The hospital authorities

thanked the Kafco for such a

noble gesture and hoped that

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ing manager.

**Kafco sup-**

**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.

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**Shishu Utsab**

**reunion held**

A reunion of Shishu Utsab

was held at Chittagong

Academy auditorium on

Thursday.

Shishuader Pathshala, a

children's organisation,

organised the programme.

Dean of Chittagong

University (CU) Social

Science faculty and

Chairman of Shishu Utsab

**held**

Second anniversary of Bank

Alfalah Limited was observed

in the port city on Tuesday.

On this occasion, a discussion

milad maftah and feast

were organised at the bank's

Agr