

Women feel insecure under police custody

Reveals DMA survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A survey conducted by Data Management Aid (DMA) of Police Reform Programme (PRP) yesterday revealed that none of the women feels secure under the custody of general police stations, while 59 percent women feel secured under the custody of model police stations.

DMA disclosed this at a findings dissemination session of Public Attitude Follow-up Survey held at a city hotel where it also mentioned that overall 70 percent women have positive experiences in model police stations, while only 14 percent in normal

police stations.

The government is implementing the PRP since 2005 in partnership with UNDP, DFID and EC. At present, there are 11 model police stations, while six others are in the pipeline to be set up.

DMA conducted the survey in 2008 to document the pre-intervention situation of the public perception towards the police service.

Speaking as the guest of honour, former adviser SM Shahjahan, who is also a former IGP, said, "Poor people always want justice from police, while the rich and powerful want favour. Sometimes it is true that

police go against the poor and in favour of the powerful people."

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said the government is considering the police reform proposal keenly and it would be passed on time.

The activities carried out by PRP include Evidence Act amendment, submission of the Evidence Ordinance 2007, development in Strategic Plan (2008-10) for Bangladesh Police, review of Bangladesh Police Crime Prevention Strategy (CPS), development of Community Policing Strategy, adaptation of Gender Guidelines and introduction of Police Open Day, he added.

At the end of the seminar, he told journalists that police want an atmosphere to conduct investigations as well as enquiries independently and to be free from any interference.

Additional IGP (admin)



Nagorik Adhikar Sangrakshan Forum forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday with a call to keep price of essentials within buying capacity of people during Ramadan.

Bandarban Chamber of Commerce executives

UNB, Bandarban

Bandarban Zila Parishad Chairman Koshaihla was elected chairman of the Bandarban Chamber of Commerce and Industries on Thursday.

Noted businessmen Shafiqur Rahman and Laxmipada Das were elected vice-presidents. Besides, 15 directors of the executive body were elected.

The election was held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner where some 169 members of the chamber cast their votes.

Executive Magistrate Fiznur Rahman acted as the chief election commissioner.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Nirbhik jointly form a human chain at Fatullah Bazar ferry ghat in Narayanganj yesterday with a call to save Buriganga and Shitalakhya rivers.

PHOTO: STAR

7 DU students still face army car torching case

University Black Day tomorrow

RAKIB AHAMMED

Seven students of Dhaka University (DU) are still facing a case filed in connection with the three-day (August 20-23) campus unrest in 2007 although five other cases related to this incident were either withdrawn or disposed of.

The seven students, charged with army car torching case at Shahbagh intersection on August 23, have to appear before the court as per its order hampering their academic life.

"We are passing our days in great uncertainty. All the cases filed against us have been withdrawn, but this one has been continuing even after two years of the incident," said Deen Islam Angel, an accused student.

On August 20, students resorted to demonstration after some army personnel beat up a student during a football match on DU central

playground. It continued for three days and triggered nationwide protests.

Six cases were filed with several police stations around the DU campus in connection with the unrest accusing several thousand unidentified students.

Of the six cases, three were withdrawn, two disposed of, and one still remains under trial.

The army car torching case was filed against 25 people but 18 of them were dropped from the charge sheet.

Meanwhile, teachers, students and the administration have chalked out a series of programmes to observe 'University Black Day' tomorrow protesting law enforcement agencies' torture on thousands of students and teachers during and after the violence.

Different student organisations will also hold protest programmes on the campus demanding withdrawal of the

army car torching case against the seven students.

They are Deen Islam Angel, a student of mass communication and journalism, Deen Islam of accounting, Zahidul Islam Biplob who finished his MBA recently, Asaduzzaman Asad of mathematics, Rafiqul Islam Sujon of Islamic studies, Rashedul Habib of Sanskrit and Abdul Hasan of Arabic.

In connection with the violence, four teachers and eight students were arrested and they were behind the bars for about five months.

Later they were released in the wake of silent and peaceful student movement.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry has recommended to the authorities concerned to reinvestigate the unrest and torture on teachers and students.

The committee also condemned the torture on teachers and students.

Two bodies recovered as trawler capsizes at Mithamoin

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Two bodies were recovered yesterday, some 25 hours after a trawler capsized in a water body at Mithamoin upazila on Thursday afternoon.

The victims were identified as sub-assistant agriculture officer of Mithamoin Md Nurul Islam, 35, of Gouripur Mymensingh, and Rashed Fakir, 62, of the same area.

The two others - Manager of Grameen Shakti Taher Uddin Jewel, 35, of Tangail, UP Member of Mithamoin Pratap Chandra Das -- still remain missing.

Mithamoin UNO Gopal Chandra Das said the trawler, which was going from Gupdighi to Mithamoin Sadar with 10 passengers, capsized around 5:00 pm by a storm in Dupi.

Divers recovered the bodies of six people the same day.

Valuables worth Tk five lakh looted in Natore

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Robbers looted valuables worth around Tk five lakh from five houses of a family at Magura village under Singra upazila on Thursday night.

Police said a gang of 20 to 25 robbers entered the house of Sahadev Chandra by breaking open the door and looted cash, jewellery and other valuables.

Later, they also stormed the house of Gaur Chandra, Madhu Sudan, Supen, Nipen and looted cash, jewellery and valuables from their houses one after another.

At one stage, villagers came to the spots, but the robbers managed to flee the scene by a boat.

Essay contest on poverty alleviation

DU CORRESPONDENT

Better Bangladesh Foundation (BBF) is going to organise an essay competition for students and researchers to mark the 'World Poverty Alleviation Day' on October 17.

The theme of the essay is 'Poverty alleviation through education in building Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla', says a press release.

The interested persons have been requested to send their essays by September to Masud A Khan, Chairman of BBF Road-10, House-25, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Phone: 017165000230. E-mail: info@dhakalanguageclub.com.

The two are Sumona, 8, daughter of Hannan Matbar, and her cousin Hasan, 8, son of Mannan Matbar, of Khatakhandi.

Local people found the bodies floating in the river at about 1:00pm.

Six others, including four children, a youth and a

MADRIPUR TRAWLER CAPSIZE

2 bodies recovered, 6 still missing

UNB, Madaripur

woman, still remain missing, family sources said.

The bodies of two children, who went missing along with six others following an engine boat capsizing in the river Aerial Khan in Shibchar on Wednesday night, were recovered yesterday.

The two are Sumona, 8, daughter of Hannan Matbar, and her cousin Hasan, 8, son of Mannan Matbar, of Khatakhandi.

Local people found the bodies floating in the river at about 1:00pm.

Forty-two people, including the bridegroom and bride, managed to swim ashore.

Power projects go slow

FROM PAGE 1

China Chenga is an obscure power company with no experience in installing a power plant in foreign countries.

Experience is a key factor in successfully completing a power project as per schedule. However, the government has been since 2001 prioritising low cost over experience and reputation, consequently Bangladesh has been having bitter experience in the power sector as the bidders are failing to deliver a plant as desired.

The Sylhet project has been awarded to Shanghai Electric Company even though its bid documents were highly irregular and a number of vital machinery offered by it are not backed up with proper performance guarantees. Although Shanghai Electric Company is a big power company with a long history, the bid documents do not show enough experience to justify awarding the project.

"But we have okayed this bid anyway because it is the sixth tender and we cannot afford to waste anymore time with this project," said a top BRTC source.

The police official said the contraband items smuggled from India through Chittagong frontier were being taken to Choumuhoni Bazar. The PDB forwarded its recommendation on the Chittagong project to the ministry two weeks ago and for the Sylhet project last month. The

complete.

The EGCGB would have completed its evaluation by now but following the WB letter it sought advice from the ministry. The ministry asked the EGCGB to complete its evaluation first. EGCGB is expected to complete the evaluation process this week.

The tender for the Khulna 150MW power project, being financed by the Asian Development Bank under the North-West Power Generation Company Ltd, was floated on June 30. Seven power companies, including five Chinese, submitted their technical and financial bids for the dual-fuel plant.

The consultant for the Khulna project has serious difference of opinion with the North-West authorities over the bid criterion. The authorities prepared the bid criterion relaxing experience and other clauses that appear to favour exclusively Chinese companies using Siemens equipment. The consultant believes that such a bid would not produce good results.

This tussle has slowed down the bidding process, sources said.

The Power Cell of the power ministry is making huge preparations for more power projects so that by the time the Awami League faces the next elections, the country does not have any more load shedding issue, sources pointed out.

New vested property act by Dec: Hira

BSS, Dhaka

The government will enact a new law by December next to remove the stalemate in the management of vested property across the country.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, MP, said this while inaugurating a two-day training course for newly recruited assistant commissioners (land) in Biman auditorium here yesterday.

A new law in this regard has become necessary, as the earlier one, framed in 2001, has now turned ineffectual, he said.

Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahmud attended the function as the special guest while Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Dr Khandakar Showkat Hossain was in the chair.

Hira said the list of assistant commissioners (land) has been prepared on the basis of their merit, and their postings were also given accordingly.

BTCL FREE PACKAGE 50,000 clients get new connection

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL) has given connection to 50,000 clients across the country in the last one and half months.

Post and Telecommunication Minister Razi Uddin Razu told BSS that demand for BTCL land phone has been increased after announcement of free package for clients at district and upazila levels.

Some divisional engineers said the process is somehow being slowed, as they are not getting required quality of cable from cable industry in Khulna.

However, Managing Director of the BTCL SM Khabiruzzaman said there is no scarcity of cable.

He said, the people once had returned their telephones, but now they are out to get connection from BTCL as its services are rates both turned attractive for them.

He said, the divisional engineers were asked to arrange cable line in every upazila and giving time to waiting clients as soon as possible.

Earlier, the whole country

Cumin seeds, milk powder worth Tk 7 lakh seized

UNB, Noakhali

was brought under a same zone fixing the call rate at 30 paisa per minute.

Sources in the telecommunication ministry said, cable lines are being installed in the upazilas where the work is progressing slowly due to shortage of cable lines.

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read-out price offers of these companies ranged between \$190 million to \$270 million but the real price offers can be understood once the evaluation of the bids are