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Highway cops limp

Manpower, transport shortage leaves them in a fragile state

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

The highway police department tasked with curbing crimes and helping victims in road mishaps is now limping because of inadequate manpower and poor logistic support.

The department has to keep a close watch on a stretch of 11,806-kilometre highway with only 2,042 personnel posted at 24 police stations and 48 outposts across the country.

These police stations and outposts have only 76 patrol cars including jeeps, pickups and microbuses, 40 walkie-talkies and 151 motorcycles to discharge their duties throughout the country.

On an average, each highway police station or outpost has a 160-km-long stretch of road. The highway department has a total of 11,806-km road - 7,641 km

national and 4,165 km regional.

A highway police station or an outpost can afford only one patrol team consisted of 15 to 20 people with one patrol car to keep vigil over its designated area in three shifts.

The highway patrol is of no use to people as a patrol car, in reality, do very little to protect people on a 160-km-long road. As the lone patrol car moves from one end to the other leaving behind the entire stretch unprotected, criminals very easily swoop on their prey.

The western region of highway police in Bogra has 10 police stations and 18 outposts in its three zones - Bogra, Kushtia and Gauranadi while eastern region in Comilla has 14 police stations and 30 outposts in four zones - Comilla, Chittagong and Sylhet.

The department came into being on

June 11 of 2005 but most of its police stations and outposts are housed in abandoned sheds of highway construction workers or rented houses except for eight makeshift structures of its own - four for police stations and eight for outposts.

Very often highway police personnel have to play a role of mere bystanders as they do have no wreckers or other logistic supports to conduct rescue operations after road mishaps. They even cannot cope with highway robbers as they use faster means of transport.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sohrab Hossain, chief of the highway police, said dual administration often causes dilemma in discharging duties on the highway, widening the scope for law enforcers to indulge in irregularities.

Hossain said traffic police and thana

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PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of devotees take part in Jumatul Wida prayers at the Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday.

211 selected to be asst judges

A SHUTOSH SARKAR

The Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) has selected 211 candidates against 207 vacant posts of assistant judges in the lower judiciary.

Sources said the commission has selected the additional four candidates as five of them made the same score in the written test and interview.

A circular for recruiting the new judges will be issued after Eid-ul-Fitr.

The commission will recommend completing the recruit

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Bangladeshi dies in Jeddah bus crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One Bangladeshi with four others was killed and 47 others were injured in a bus accident in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

The Bangladeshi was identified as Abdul Haq while others were two Indians - Abdul Kabir, 33, Abdul Karim, 36 - a Pakistani Abdul

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Operations resume at Chittagong Port
Workers call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Good handling operations resumed at Chittagong port at around 2:00pm Friday almost thirty hours after stevedores forced suspension of work since 8:00am on Thursday demanding increase in Eid bonus.

Sources said the stevedoring staffs decided to join work since 8:00am yesterday after the berth operators assured them of increase in bonus in a meeting held in presence of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) officials on Thursday evening.

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Suicide attack kills 33 in Pakistan market

AFP, Peshawar

A suicide car bomb tore through a Pakistan market, killing 33 people and trapping victims under smashed shops yesterday as families bought supplies for a major religious festival, police said.

The explosion flung body parts across the bazaar and gutted shops in Ustarzai, a small mainly Shia northwest town which lies between the garrison city of Kohat and Hangu,

another town with a history of sectarian unrest. A spokesman for the little known Lashkar-i-Jhangvi al Almi militant group claimed the attack. Northwest Pakistan is ripe with sectarian violence and Islamist militants, branded by the United States as an existential threat.

The area was packed with shoppers buying food and delicacies for the weekend and the Muslim Eid-ul-Fitr holiday, which Pakistanis expect to start on Monday with the sighting of

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PHOTO: STAR
Eleven luxury air-conditioned buses of Trans Millennium Company Ltd were destroyed in a fire at Anandapur, Savar early yesterday.

Online Poll ✓

Do you think the Rajuk officials responsible for filling up Shitalakhya bank for Purbachal project should be punished?

Yes (54.0%)
 No (45.3%)
 No Comments (0.7%)

Total votes: 1111

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Sheikh Hasina will be able to take action against her party MPs if they are found patronising tender manipulation and extortion?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Sept	Sehri	Iftar
28	19	7-02	
29	20	5-27	7-00
30	21	5-27	6-59

Prayer Timing

September 19		
Azan	Jamaat	
5-26	5-36	
1-45	2-15	
5-30	5-45	
7-02	7-13	
8-45	9-15	

Source: Islamic Foundation

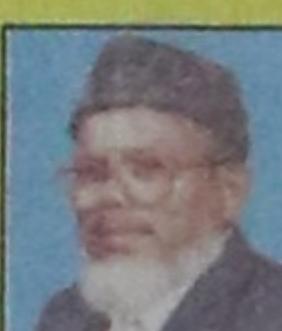
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- ** Mr. A. S. M. Nayem (Board Director, K&T Logistics Limited)
- ** Mr. Anis Ahmed (Managing Director, Portlink Logistics Centre Ltd.)
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