

# Law, order slide in Rajshahi city for laxity of police

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Law and order situation has been worsening in Rajshahi city, as extortionists, drug peddlers and muggers have become very active in many localities due to lax monitoring of the law enforcers.

At least three to five murders are committed every month since January this year, said police officials.

City dwellers said muggings and extortions have become regular phenomena with maximum incidents leaving beyond the police record.

Law enforcers are apparently finding it difficult to cope with the situation as, they said, the recent violent incidents on the campuses are eating up much of their time and forces.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Nawsher Ali, however, claimed that the law and order situation here is still good.

"The incidents occurring are separate ones. We are trying to ensure speedy investigation into the incidents."

Muggers in Rajshahi city started to

become so daring that they did not spare businessmen having licenced guns.

On Thursday, the muggers posing as detective branch policemen snatched away Tk 15 lakh and the licenced revolver of Osman Gani, a businessman of Dhaka, and two of his relatives at Kapasia under Motihar Police Station.

The hawkers at Laxmipur alleged that policemen, led by Afzal Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Rajpara Police Station, on Wednesday night vandalised some 20 roadside shops, damaged goods on plea of evicting them.

Some 10 people were injured in a clash with the law enforcers.

Businessmen, including Muhammad Chand and Al Amin, alleged that local police were taking Tk 10 as toll from them every day, but they launched the eviction drive when the traders denied paying them a new demand for Tk 3,000 per month.

However, the OC denied the allegations and said the drive was launched following directives of the government high-ups.

In the evening of March 15, assailants murdered Raju Ahmed, a teenager, just

beside New Market police outpost.

The victim's family members said Raju could not live even after going to Rajshahi city from Bagmara for security of his life.

They alleged that local police persecuted Raju's family centring a dispute with local influential people over land and extortion.

The police could hardly make any headway into the killing.

Drug peddling is another menace, which worries people in some areas, particularly Binodpur, Kajla, Dasmari, Dharampur, Meherchandi, Budpara, Assam Colony, Fire Brigade crossing and Bulonpur.

Peddlers have built their strongholds even around the offices of RMP and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-5.

The areas have become safe havens for drug peddlers with around one lakh bottles of smuggled Phensidyl pouring into the city daily.

The drug peddlers having a nexus with the ruling party men have laid siege to Motihar Police Station thrice since January for arresting their members.



**Noted citizens hand over the national flag to MA Muhit, who is going to start an expedition to the Mount Everest next month, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Enam Ul Haque, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, MA Muhit, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique and Dr Akbar Ali Khan.**



**Pataka Michhil Jatiya Committee brings out a flag procession from the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding immediate trial of war criminals.**

**BHOLA-3 BY-POLLS**  
**Hafiz wants deployment of army**

**UNB, Dhaka**

BNP Vice Chairman Maj (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) to deploy army for the Bhola-3 by-election.

He deems army deployment necessary to ensure the election is free and fair, and also in providing a secure atmosphere for the vacated Barisal division constituency that represents a chance for the BNP to gain one seat on the government's overwhelming majority in parliament.

He also demanded that international observers to be invited to monitor the contest, which is scheduled to be held on April 24.

Hafiz, who lost the seat in the last general elections in December 2008, made these demands during a press briefing at his Dhaka residence yesterday afternoon.

According to the former minister, ruling party cadres and goons have stoked a situation of panic in the constituency ahead of the election.

Welcoming the by-election schedule, Hafiz expressed his confidence in the EC. "If the EC fulfils its role properly, the ruling party's ill-attempts will not succeed," he said.

He also said he hopes that the EC will take appropriate punitive action against the local administration in the constituency, if they are found to be playing a biased role to influence the election.

On February 3, the EC declared the Bhola-3 parliamentary constituency, which covers the Lalmoan and Tajumuddin upazilas, vacant following a Supreme Court verdict.

## BNP-Jamaat govt issued 66,000 fake FF certificates

**Says land minister**

**BSS, Jamalpur**

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira yesterday said the previous BNP-Jamaat government issued 66,000 fake certificates of freedom fighters during its five-year rule.

Mentioning that the anti-liberation forces Jamaat-Shibir are still active against the freedom fighters, he urged the war heroes to remain alert against any conspiracy of Jamaat-Shibir.

The land minister was addressing as the chief guest a meeting for distribution of cheques among the families of late freedom fighters in the conference room of the deputy commissioner.

Earlier, the land minister inaugurated a 'Car Fair' at Boishakhi Mela ground in the town. Khandaker Trade Centre, a dealer of Rangs Motors Limited, has organised the fair.

### WEATHER

## Dry weather likely

**UNB, Dhaka**

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 6:02am tomorrow.**

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 16.2 degrees at Srimongal.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.3	21.7	46	43
Chittagong	35.4	22.5	73	38
Rajshahi	36.5	18.2	59	45
Khulna	35.8	20.6	69	52
Barisal	35.6	19.5	67	63
Sylhet	36.7	20.5	37	45
Cox's Bazar	37.0	22.5	67	66

## Teenage girl raped in city

**Two arrested**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A gang of local criminals allegedly raped a teenage girl storming into a residence in the city's West Nandipara early yesterday and looted gold ornaments and a cellphone set.

Police have arrested two youths -- Jamal Uddin alias Badsha and Rakib -- in this connection after the 17-year-old victim filed a case with the concerned Khilgaon Police Station accusing local criminals Sohnel, Jamal and eight others.

Officer-in-Charge Nizam Uddin confirmed the incident and said they are trying to nab the other criminals.

Police said the victim, who hails from Mehendiganj in Barisal, came to Dhaka to visit her elder sister.

Her brother-in-law, who is a driver of a private car, was away last night, said the victim, adding that the neighbours did not dare to come to their rescue as the criminals were threatening them of dire consequences.

## Bangladeshi set to start expedition to Everest

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

MA Muhit, a Bangladeshi and a member of Bangladesh Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMTTC), is set to start an expedition to the Mount Everest next month.

If he can make it, Muhit will be the first Bangladeshi to conquer the Everest, the 8850-metre (29,035ft) giant lying across the Nepal-Tibet border.

This was told at a press conference and flag off ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Muhit gave a presentation on the Everest at the press conference where he said a team comprising seven members (six others of Germany and the USA) would leave Dhaka for the 60-day expedition on April 6.

Muhit is the only Bangladeshi to conquer the 8201-metre (26,906ft) Mt Cho Oyu and

climb up to 7000 meters on the Mt Manslu.

He had earlier done the basic and advance mountaineering training from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute of India and climbed four Himalayan peaks over 6000 meters (Chulu West, Mera Peak, Singu and Lobuje Peak).

Addressing the press conference, former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan said such kinds of achievements would broaden the mentality of the people.

While noted educationist Zillur Rahman Siddique hoped that someday a team from Bangladesh will conquer the Everest.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, GQ Chowdhury, CEO and executive director of Transcom Beverages Ltd, Abrar A Anwar, MD and head of Citibank NA Bangladesh, and MM Jasim Uddin, AGM of Akij Cement Company Ltd, also spoke at the press conference moderated by Enam Ul Haque, founder of BMTTC.

## Govt working to recognise women's domestic labour

**Muhith tells Mahila Parishad council**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said his government is working to recognise the domestic labour of women, which always remained uncared in patriarchal society.

"The government also believes in the equal rights of women and it will work to enforce the employers to pay equal wages and rights at workplaces."

The government would also force garment owners to ensure workplace security for women in the RMG sector, he added.

Muhith said this at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day national council 2010 of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) at Biam auditorium in the city.

He also assured BMP leaders of implementing the strict laws to stop Fatwa (religious edict), which still exists in the country's outlying areas.

Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring and BMP General Secretary Maleka Banu and Vice-President Shanara Hossain also spoke at the programme with BMP President Ayesha Khanam in the chair.

BMP councillors from all districts and distinguished personalities were also present at the function.

The BMP president hoped that the present government would ensure equality of men and women in society.

The finance minister called on all to build a social movement for reducing gender disparity and recognition to the domestic labour of women.

Mentioning various successes and valuable contribution of womenfolk in socio-economic sector, he said the government would not be able to develop economy leaving women aside.

## 8 killed in road accidents

**METRO DESK**

Eight people were killed in separate road accidents in Satkhira, Mymensingh and Netrakona in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Satkhira reports: Four people were killed in separate road accidents in the district in the last two days.

The police said a Satkhira-bound bus hit Jahangir Hossain, 45, in front of a mosque beside Satkhira-Jessore highway at Madhabkati Bazar after it lost control yesterday.

In another accident, Yunus Ali, 7, was crushed under the wheels of a bus while he was crossing the Satkhira-Kaliganj highway at Sakhipur in Debhata upazila at about 10:00am yesterday.

Meanwhile, Mehedi Hasan, 6, was killed when a private car knocked him down while he was crossing the road at Gopinathpur at about 7:00pm on Thursday.

In a separate accident, Sheikh Ehsanur Rahman, died on the spot when a pickup hit the bicycle he was riding on at Moutala at about 7:30pm on Thursday.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh adds: At least two workers of a coal depot were killed and two others injured in an accident in Gubrakura Land Port area under Haluaghat upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abbas Ali, 32, and Noor Hossain, 28. Both of them come from the Gubrakura village.

Police said an Indian truck was returning after unloading coals at Gubrakura Land Port area when its driver lost control and rammed into Habib enterprise killing Abbas Ali and leaving three other workers critically injured.

The injured were rushed to Haluaghat Upazila Health Complex where Noor Hossain died soon after his admission.

Sub-Inspector Khokon Chandra Sarker said they seized the truck and arrested its driver Saidur Rahman.

Our correspondent in Netrakona adds: Two people were killed in a road accident on Netrakona-Durgapur highway at Bakoljura in Durgapur yesterday morning.

The accident took place at about 6:00am when a Netrakona-bound sand-laden truck lost control and fell in to a roadside paddy field.

The driver were identified as truck dealer Masud Mia and helper Alamgir Hossain.

## BNP RALLY ON MAR 29

**Govt conspiring against BNP, says Khasru**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

The government's refusal to allow BNP to hold its divisional public rally at Outer Stadium in Chittagong is part of a conspiracy, Chittagong city BNP President Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club, Khasru, a former commerce minister, said the BNP central committee had decided to hold grand rallies in five divisional towns of the country and the first of those rallies was scheduled to be held in Chittagong on March 27 considering the 'significance of the day'.

"But, we did not get the permission since the government did not want us to hold the rally here on the day (March 27) when Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman announced the independence of Bangladesh from Chittagong," said Amir Khasru at the press conference.

So, in a planned way Chittagong City Corporation got permission for using the venue for scouting, he said.

The city BNP has shifted both the venue and date of the rally. The rally will now be held at Laldighi Maidan on March 29.

After the 2008 general election, it would be the first public rally in Chittagong to be addressed by opposition leader Khaleda Zia.

The rally was previously scheduled for Outer Stadium on March 27, but city BNP was refused permission to use the Outer Stadium owned by Bangladesh Army.

The Chittagong city BNP president also called upon the government officials and employees to serve the state instead of serving any political party.

Khasru said the Chittagong divisional rally would be a "historical public rally" from where the BNP chairperson would announce agitation programmes.

## Sundari timber seized

**UNB, Bagerhat**

Members of Coastguard seized sundari timber worth about Tk 15 lakh from a trawler in the Pashur River in Mongla upazila yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Mongla Coastguard West Zone conducted a drive in the river and chased a trawler.

Sensing danger, the smugglers fled the scene, leaving behind the trawler.

Later, the coastguard members recovered the timber from the trawler.

