

# Vulnerable law, order situation makes cops happy?

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Law and order situation in the port city is now vulnerable despite frequent drives by law enforcement agencies against criminals.

The senior police officials, however, expressed their satisfaction over the situation. The incidents of snatching, burglaries, kidnapping, murder and rape are happening every now and then.

Burglars looted around Tk 38 lakh breaking open a vault from the office of Base Textile Limited in Kalurghat Industrial area on January 11.

A gang of armed robbers looted cash and valuables from the bungalow of Bangladesh Railway's general manager in Chittagong on May 18.

Masked men stormed into the head office of Mishmak Development Ltd at Goal

Pahar intersection in the port city on June 1 and looted valuables and Tk 23.5 lakh in cash.

The burglars looted 36 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 4 lakh in cash from the Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury building in the Panchlaish area at 3:00am on June 4.

Police said three identified gangs of burglars commit the crimes, come out of jail on bail few days later of their arrest and start committing the burglaries afresh.

Meanwhile, the people of Hamidchar locked in a clash with the residents of Bolirhat under Chandgaon Police Station over occupying a piece of land at Hamidchar on April 17. Two people were killed and 15 others injured in the half an hour clash, said police.

Jan-e-Alam Babu was killed by his friends over a cricket match in Rahman Nagar area

under Panchlaish police station on May 8. Shohag, 22, was stabbed to death by his rivals over establishment of supremacy in the area at Haliashahar on June 10.

Schoolboys Supam and Mushfi were killed by their relatives in a feud over family property. Supam, a GPA-5 achiever in the last SSC examinations, was kidnapped from the city and killed in Bandarban allegedly by the hired goons of his uncle, Sunil Das, on May 8 while Mushfi, a student of class VI, was poisoned to death by his stepmother on March 23 at his house in Haliashahar area.

The police arrested the persons responsible for the crimes but failed to arrest the culprits involved in gang-rape and sex related crimes.

On January 1 this year, a girl was gang-raped by five young men, one of them her boyfriend, on the top of Matijharna hill in

Lalkhan Bazar area under Khulsi Police Station at dead of night. The rapists threw her from the hill. But the girl fortunately survived as she fell on the roof of a tin-shed house.

Police recovered body of a woman from the top of Batali Hill on January 3. Khulsi police suspect that the woman might have been killed after gang-rape as she was found naked.

A gang of criminals burnt garment worker Panna Rani Das, 18, to death after gang-rape at South Kattali under Pahartali Police Station on June 8.

Police are yet to arrest anyone in these incidents.

A 14-year-old indigenous girl of Bandarban was gang-raped at night by the manager and his friends in Diamond hotel at Bahaddarhat on February 16.

Two minor girls were raped alternately by two men at a house in Bahaddarhat area and succumbed to their injuries on May 2 at a hospital.

On the other hand, police recovered four bodies in the city, including one of trader Masud Miah, 40.

Deputy Commissioner of CMP (north) Amena Begum said she is satisfied with the prevailing law and order situation in the port city as most of the criminals in the cases were arrested. She said there was nothing to be worried about over the law and order situation, terming the incidents isolated ones.

Commissioner Abul Kashem at a monthly meeting of CMP on June 19 termed the situation normal but pledged to continue drives and increase mobile teams to maintain law and order situation.

# NO hope for new gas connection

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Chittagong has been facing gas crisis despite establishing a separate zone for the division one year ago.

The situation has not improved as Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) could not give new gas connection to the customers.

Industrialists, businessmen as well as KGDCL officers demanded additional gas from the national grid and Samutang field in Manikchhari of Khagrachhari where Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company (Bapex) already began to extract gas.

KGDCL sources said at least 12,000 residential customers submitted their demand note for gas connection two years ago. But the government stopped giving new connection for industries in 2009 and for households in 2010.

A senior KGDCL official preferring anonymity said they do not find any reason to stop giving the new connection as it will take only one million cubic feet (mcf) for the customers applied for residential connection. He said it has 3.15 lakh customers, of them, 3.10 lakh are household consumers and 4,130 of industries and businesses. Total demand for gas in Chittagong is about 398 million cubic feet per day whereas KGDCL is capable of supplying on an average 225 million cubic feet per day. He said the government has stopped supply to Chittagong

Urea Fertiliser Company Limited (CUFL) and Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) due to shortage of gas.

General Manager (marketing) Engineer Shamsur Rahman Khan said KGDCL has no power to improve the present situation as every thing is decided by Bapex or the government. He said the Samutang field will take almost one year to begin full production.

He said though there has been no official order, the government has the desire to supply Chittagong with gas from the Samutang field. According to information from Bapex, he said this field will add approximately 18 to 20 million cubic feet gas to the national grid daily and the rest to Chittagong that will help reduce the shortage.

He said it is not possible to say when the new connections will be given.

BGMEA First Vice-President Nasir Uddin Chowdhury said due to shortage of gas, many industries can not go for full production hampering the new investments. Demanding new connection for the industries, he said the government should allow the industries of Chittagong to use gas from Samutang field.

A source at KGDCL said they have already started the project of establishing new supply line of 65-kilometre to supply gas from Samutang field to the supply allotted for Chittagong.

He said Bapex gave them a signal to add gas from Sundalpur gas field of Noakhali to Chittagong region.



Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited.

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Chittagong city Awami League President and former mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury speaks at an anti-hartal rally on a city road yesterday.

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### 'Journos bound to protect human rights'

Speakers in the port city on Friday at a roundtable said journalists by profession are bound to work for protecting human rights.

The roundtable titled "Role of newspapers in protecting human rights at grassroots level" was organised by Democracy Watch, Chittagong chapter in Chattagram Academy auditorium.

Journalists of different media and activists of different non-government organisations spoke at the discussion.

The roundtable placed some recommendations for protecting human rights including training for journalists working at grassroots level to enhance their knowledge and efficiency in working for the protection of human rights, more space in the newspapers for grassroots level, avoiding unscientific advertisement in the newspapers and developing the

communication with local people's representatives. Chairman of department of Communication and Journalism in Chittagong University Morshedul Islam, journalists Omar Kaiser and Mir Aslam and contact person of Democracy Watch, Chittagong Hamidul Islam were present at the roundtable.

### Charity show in aid of autistic children

A charity show was held to raise fund for the autistic children in the port city on Thursday.

Angan, a cultural organisation of Chittagong University (CU), organised the event. Many autistic children along with their parents participated in the programme.

The programme featured Tagore song, Nazrul song, patriotic songs, Bangla modern songs and folk songs.

The programme started with the popular Bagla song 'Manush Manusher Jonno'.

Later, artistes from Angan performed dance at the programme.

Singer Kalyani Ghosh, Hoimanti Rakshit, Abdul Mannan Rana, Animesh Chakraborty, Prem Sundar Baishnab, Alauddin Taher, Arin and Ajoy performed at the programme.

### Project to cut poverty launched

Centre for Zakat Management (CZM) launched a poverty alleviation programme in the port city on Saturday.

The under-privileged people of the locality will be benefited directly from the project, said the speakers at the inaugural function.

AK Khan Foundation Trustee Secretary Salauddin Kashem Khan inaugurated the programme styled 'Jibika Karnaphuli Project' on the AL Khan High School premises at Mohra at Kalurghat in the city.

CZM Chairman Niaz Rahim, also director of Rahimafrooz Group, chaired the programme.

AK Khan Foundation trustee AM Ziauddin

Khan, CEO of CZM Dr Mohammad Ayub Meah and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Councillor Mohammad Azam spoke on the occasion.

### Call to make fine arts compulsory

Speakers at a rally in the port city urged the government to include fine arts as a compulsory subject at school and college levels in the new national education policy.

The rally was organised by Sachetan Shilipi Samaj on the Chittagong Press Club premises following a human chain on Tuesday.

Termining fine arts creative one, they said it helps students grow with sound health and sound mind. They called upon the authorities to make the subject compulsory in GSC, SSC and HSC syllabuses. Prof Alaftagin Tusar of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University (CU), artiste Jahed Ali Chowdhury and artiste Shayla Sharmin also spoke at the programme.

### Seminar on environment held

Speakers on Saturday at a seminar said stressed the need for creating awareness on environment among the new generation.

The seminar on environment was organised by Human Rights Federation (HRF) at Chittagong Polo Ground High School in the city.

BHF Chairman Azizul Haque Chowdhury spoke as the chief guest at the seminar with HRF Convener Advocate Md Shahidul Islam in the chair.

Saplings were also distributed at the function among the students on behalf of the organisation.

HRF member Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Member Secretary Jahan Mili, Bandar Committee President Mohammad Selim and Kotwali Committee President Sayad Shamsul Alam also spoke at the programme.

### Cultural evening on monsoon held

Journalists from all media houses of the port city on Monday enjoyed a colourful cultural evening on monsoon.

Chittagong Press Club (CPC) organised the programme titled 'Aji jhoro jhoro mukharo badoro dine' at its auditorium.

CPC President Abu Sufian inaugurated the programme.

Shreyashi Roy, Alauddin Taher and Munmun Chowdhury rendered Tagore, Nazrul and modern Bangla songs related with rainy season at the programme.

Artiste Ayesha Huque recited poems at the programme.



Singer Shreyashi Roy renders a song at a cultural function organised by Chittagong Press Club CPC in its auditorium in the port city on July 2.

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