

Criminal gangs busted

Stolen cars, firearms, police uniform seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested 19 alleged criminals of three separate gangs at various places in the capital in a seven-hour-long drive ending in the early hours yesterday.

Detectives said the gangs used to be involved in lifting vehicles, smuggling, and forcing victims having debit cards to go to ATM booths and withdraw cash at gun-point.

Several teams of the Detective Branch (DB) of police started a series of raids at 7:30pm on Monday and seized 14 vehicles including a Mercedes Benz, three firearms, six bullets, police uniform, two knives and several iron rods from the criminals after combing Mirpur, Jatrabari, Sadarghat and Shanir Akhra areas in the capital.

Some of the arrestees also snatched valuables from passengers in the guise of drivers and helpers of rented cars, police said at a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday. Some of them even used to set up checkpoints on city streets wearing police uniform to snatch vehicles and mug people.

"We kept several of our teams on alert following complaints filed by the city dwellers with different police stations," Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan

Police (DMP), told the reporters at the briefing.

Acting on a tip-off, the detectives caught Kamrul Khan, Awlad, Koti Mia, Md. Shamim, Shitol Ali, Jasim Fakir from Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium area around 7:30pm Monday night.

Kamrul, the ringleader of the group, is accused of killing of SI Mizan of Gulshan police station, police said.

Based on their information, another team of DB arrested ringleader of a group Jasim, his associates Selim, Monir, Md. Shakil, Ataur Rahman alias Liku, Monir Hossain alias Chabiwala Monir, Mollah Abdul Karim from Shanir Akhra area while they were planning to commit a robbery.

Later, detectives arrested another group leader Manik, his cohorts Khairul Ahmed alias Khaleq, Afzal, Yonus Sheikh, Anwar Hossain alias Anu and Shiplu Mia from Sadarghat area.

Five cases were filed against them on charges of robbery, stealing and possessing illegal weapons with different police stations in the capital.

Later in the day, a Dhaka court granted four-day remand each for all the arrestees after police produced them before the court with remand prayers.



These alleged robbers and thieves were arrested by the Detective Branch of police in the capital. Besides arms and ammunition, stolen cars, motorcycles and CNG-run auto-rickshaws were recovered from their possession.

Buyers

FROM PAGE 16

contribute to the funds for compensating the victims.

Replying to a query on the trial of war criminals, he said it was necessary to fight against impunity to prevent new crimes and mass crimes in the future.

"This is difficult for any country, any society. Even in France, it was difficult for us. It is never easy. It is always difficult to combine reconciliation and justice. Justice is not revenge. I know there is a debate over death penalty. No justice is perfect. Justice can be wrong."

On incidents of forced disappearance in Bangladesh, he said, "This is a terrible crime...a crime against humanity. This is an example of collapse of law."

Zimeray said he held discussions with the National Human Rights Commission chairman about the matter and also the issue of extrajudicial killing.

"I encouraged the authorities to move ahead with the issue because it is extremely serious."

Speaking again on the Rana Plaza tragedy, he said Bangladesh needed to send a strong message to the world that lessons had been learnt from the tragedy.

Bangladesh should work more closely with the International Labour Organisation, and transform the things on paper into reality, he said.

"But our part as consumers, as buyers, as clients is to ask the brands to check more carefully."

On allegations that buyers are not doing their bit, he said safety and dignity have a price, and this price has to be paid.

French Ambassador in Dhaka Michel Trinquier and Alliance Française Director in Dhaka Olivier Litvine also spoke at the press conference.

Earlier, Zimeray visited the site of the Savar tragedy on Monday, and talked to the families of the victims. He also went to Enam Medical College Hospital to talk to the injured workers.

Rajuk role in question

FROM PAGE 1

buildings beyond the city's core area due to lack of manpower. They also could not go for enforcing building law in areas like Savar because of "vehement opposition" by local municipal authorities.

But Mubasshar said Rajuk did lodge a case against Rana Plaza owner for the collapse, which claimed more than 1,100 lives, for violating Building Construction Act and the BNBC. It proves Rajuk is the authority responsible for enforcing laws there.

He rejected the Rajuk chairman's excuse, saying there are scores of example of illegal high-rise buildings even in the capital's core area, where Rajuk has remained mysteriously silent. "So, the excuse is unacceptable."

Rajuk chairman said they placed a revised organogram to the govern-

ment seeking increase in manpower from 1,087 to 1,980 but it took two and half years to get approval from housing and public works ministry, finance ministry and the cabinet.

Then it took six months for public administration ministry to approve the recruitment rules and they have to further wait for law ministry's vetting, he said, the new organogram will add 200 inspectors to existing 40, 20 authorised officers to 4, and 7 executive magistrates to one.

As to long delay in endorsing required manpower, Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing and public works, said it was due to financial constraints and long bureaucratic process involving finance, planning and public administration ministries.

Rajuk is legally responsi-

ble to control development within its 1,528-square kilometres area of Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (master plan) as per Town Improvement Act.

"Rajuk has taken upon itself too heavy a load," said noted civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, "It should disaggregate responsibility."

Evasive role of Rajuk and defiant role of local government bodies have paved the way for an unspecified number of illegal buildings creeping up in Savar, Tongi, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Keraniganj, Fatullah, Demra and Sabujbagh, official documents show.

Meanwhile, various municipal authorities, including that of Savar, have approved hundreds of buildings within Rajuk jurisdiction even though they lack technical manpower as required by laws.

As per Building Construction Act and BNBC, only an authorised officer along with a building construction committee of Rajuk can approve a building design within an area of an approved master plan.

Such approval also requires supervision by enlisted architect, structural engineer, geotechnical engineer, a town planner as per laws and above all a set of rules. But a Pourashava lacks all of those.

The municipality ordinance has a sketchy provision for building approval by municipalities. Rajuk wrote to Savar mayor in January this year asking him not to approve building designs within Rajuk's jurisdiction.

The nine-story Rana Plaza was built with a municipality approval for five stories and is located within Rajuk master plan.

Stop killing-game

Hasina to Khaleda; also warns her against doing destructive politics to oust govt

UNB, Munshiganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday warned Khaleda Zia that she would not succeed in toppling the government by killing people; rather she would be lost from politics.

"Stop this game of over-throwing government by killing people. You can't do this; rather you will be lost from politics," she said while addressing a rally at Mawa Golchattar in Munshiganj.

The premier said the opposition leader had thrown a 48-hour ultimatum, saying that after 48 hours, the government would not find a way to flee.

"I want to ask her [Khaleda] from where she

had got the power to throw such challenge to the government," she added.

She also said that the opposition had wanted to topple the government to save the war criminals.

Hasina alleged that the opposition leader had invited Hefajat-e-Islam and also provided arms to Jamaat-e-Islami men and her party cadres to kill innocent people for ousting the government.

She asked the opposition leader to remain in the path of democracy, saying "Otherwise, you will lose the soil from under your feet. You can not imagine where you will slip down."

The premier, however, thanked the opposition

leader for supporting her party's candidate in the upcoming city corporation polls.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, AL presidium member Nuh-Ul Alam Lenin, joint secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, organising secretary Ahmed Hossain, Munshiganj district Awami League president Mohiuddin Ahmed and general secretary Lutfar Rahman, among others, also spoke at the rally.

The rally was organised by Lauhajang Awami League with its president Fakir Mohammad Abdul Hamid in the chair.

Yunus Centre refutes

FROM PAGE 16

Grameenphone on Sunday.

The finance minister's remark: None of the social business organisations have any institutional foundation.

Response: All of the social business companies are registered with the Registrar of joint stock companies and have all the relevant permissions and licences from the government ministries, agencies, and regulatory authorities to operate. All social businesses companies hold their regular board meetings and are audited externally on an annual basis. They all pay taxes regularly. The GB Inquiry Commission is in possession of all documents from Grameen social businesses and can verify this easily.

The minister's remark: We do not know what will happen when Prof Yunus leaves these institutions.

Response: The social business organisations have all been founded by Prof Yunus. Each company has its own separate management structure, headed by its CEO and his/her competent staff. These companies will continue to operate according to the by-laws of each company, on the basis of which they were formed, into the future, as is the case for all companies that operate in the land.

The minister's remark: Prof Yunus is also making social investments like selling yoghurt for improving public health status but these are mainly non-profit ventures.

Response: Grameen Danone produces and sells fortified yoghurt for reducing malnutrition among children. Like other social businesses this is also a for-profit business where the owners never take out any dividends, except to recoup the initial invested amount.

It is wrong to say that "these are mainly non-profit ventures", because they are for-profit ventures where owners don't take any dividend by their own choice.

All the social business companies are profit making companies. In a social business, the investors/owners only recoup the money initially invested by them, but cannot take any dividend beyond that point. Purpose of the investment is purely to achieve one or more social objectives through the operation of the company; no personal gain is desired by the investors. That is the basic concept of social business.

Many companies founded in earlier years by Prof Yunus were designed as section 28 companies, which do not have owners. These are companies limited by guarantee. These do not fall in the category of social business since they don't have any owners.

The minister's remark: Prof Yunus had spent all the dividends from GP in the social business companies.

Response: Grameen Telecom, not Prof Yunus, has received profits from GP, as owner of GP. Grameen

Telecom donated this money to Grameen Telecom Trust. The trust has invested some of this money, not spent, in social business companies that aim to help solve specific social problems faced by the poor people, especially women.

The minister's remark: But when Dr Yunus established GP he said all of its profits will go to Grameen Bank (GB). But GB did not get any benefit.

Response: GP never had any agreement with the government to give away money to anyone. The government gave telephone licence to GP, not to Prof Yunus. If government had wanted to put any pre-condition for license, this would have had to be incorporated in the licence agreement, and the government could sue the company if they violated any such condition.

To our knowledge no such pre-condition was ever discussed let alone imposed. If any pre-condition exists beyond our knowledge, government should sue GP, instead of making complaints about violation.

The minister's remark: I think in the last 20 years GB has got at best Tk 200 crore from GP. The rest went to social investment projects.

Response: Grameen Bank does not own a single share in GP. Since GB is not a shareholder of GP, why would GP give any money to GB, leave alone Tk 200 crore. Grameen

Telecom receives the dividend from GP, as part owner of GP. It did not receive this money from GP as a favour.

The minister's remark: The in-charges of these companies have all been hand-picked by Prof Yunus.

Response: All the heads of Grameen companies are appointed by the board of each company according to the company laws. These are all recorded in board decisions.

The minister's remark: Prof Yunus' recommendation to raise the wage of garment workers in Bangladesh in line with international standards is unrealistic.

Response: Prof Yunus' proposal is to create international minimum wage for each garment exporting country, by the international buyers, individually, or in groups, or collectively, on a voluntary basis, so that element of exploitation of poor workers is removed. He proposed that 50 cent per hour could be an acceptable level of such international minimum wage for Bangladesh.

Prof Yunus did not ask the government or anyone else to "impose" such minimum wage. He is campaigning for voluntary acceptance of the concept of international minimum wage by the buyers. The idea has been lauded internationally, as a practical solution to the existing exploitative wage in an international sector of business.

Student builds one-man sub

FROM PAGE 16

Nautilus in homage to the first nuclear sub, can dive to depths of 30 feet, although the aspiring engineer has yet to pressure-test it in the water.

It took the West Morris Mendham High School junior six months and nearly \$2,000 to build his vessel mostly from salvaged materials: the sub's motor came

from a fishing boat, while the Plexiglas dome was made from sky lights.

Beckerman also made sure to include several safety features inside the underwater craft, including pumps and a breathing hose, which would supply the person inside the vessel with air in case the Nautilus floods.

"I wanted to see what I

could build and figure out how I could build it," Beckerman told MyFox New Jersey.

He has been tinkering with mechanisms since he was a toddler, mostly using common household goods, which has earned him comparisons to the character MacGyver -- a fictional secret agent known for his inventive use of every-

day items.

His latest vessel is much more sophisticated, featuring ballast tanks to control the height in the water, air compressors, sonar, paddles, regulators and valves from an old soda machine, float sensors, four battery systems, a horn, a two-way radio, a PA system, a wireless camera and 200 watts of LED lighting.

facebook !
without internet !

now just dial
***325#** in your
banglalink mobile to stay
connected to **facebook** any
time, anywhere!

in addition,

- for birthday wish dial ***325*76#**
- for special status update dial ***325*75#**

• subscription charge: Tk. 2 per day
• to deactivate the service dial ***325*22#** and follow the instructions
• VAT applicable

to know more: 121 01911304121 www.banglalinkgsm.com facebook.com/banglalinkmela

making a difference

banglalink