

**THE  
DAILY  
NEWSPAPER**

**Dhaka, Saturday  
February 16, 2008**

**NEW  
AGE**

**Front Page**

## **Police to get latest equipment to combat crime, terrorism**

**Abul Kalam Azad**

The Bangladesh police will be equipped with some of the highly sophisticated equipment used worldwide for detection of crime suspects and fighting terrorism.

Sources in the police department said that separate committees were preparing to procure the systems with the financial and technical assistance of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme and some other international agencies.

Automated Finger Identification System, Integrated Ballistic Information System and Command, Control and Communication (C3) are some of the equipments the police department is expecting to get this year, said sources.

According to experts involved in the UNDP's Police Reform Programme, AFIS is used for automatically matching one or many unknown fingerprints against a database of known and unknown prints.

'AFIS is primarily used by law enforcement agencies for criminal identification initiatives, the most important of which include identifying a person suspected of committing a crime or linking a suspect to other unsolved crimes,' said one expert.

He said AFIS has been used in large-scale civil identification projects with greater frequency in recent years.

The chief purpose of a civil AFIS is to prevent multiple enrolment in an electoral roll and welfare programme. Another benefit of a civil AFIS is that it is used for background checking of those applying for highly sensitive posts, like educational personnel who have close contact with children.

Many nations, including the USA, Canada, the European Union, the UK, Israel, Pakistan, Turkey, Italy, Chile and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) have their own AFIS equipments which are used for a variety of purposes.

The Integrated Ballistic Information System will enable the police to check fingerprints on firearms; build a database of bullets and spent shells recovered from crime scenes; link bullets and spent shells to crime scenes; and make connections between illegal firearms and gun crimes.

'The acquisition of the IBIS will boost the crime-fighting capacity of the police enormously,' said a police official involved in the procurement process of the equipments.

He also claimed that the police would be able to investigate and find perpetrators much sooner than is possible now.

The Command, Control and Communication (C3) equipment provides a seamless base level and worldwide communication networks. This information infrastructure contains data, communication networks, computers, software, databases, applications, security services and other capabilities needed for information processing.

Hubert Staberhofer, programme manager of UNDP'S Police Reform Programme, said there are also plans to procure some other sophisticated equipments for the police department.

'We have internationally reputed technical consultants who are assisting the government in procuring equipment of the best quality,' he said.

These are parts of the Police Reform Programme to turn Bangladesh's police into a capable service-oriented force in the near future, added Hubert.