

**THE
DAILY
NEWSPAPER**

Dhaka, Saturday
November 3, 2007

**NEW
AGE**

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CID to have crime intelligence unit

Data analysis will help in busting crime networks

Abul Kalam Azad

Bangladesh will have a specialised unit for crime intelligence analysis to help law enforcers to bust criminal networks and know of the movement and activities of crime gangs, enabling the police to check crime of all sorts.

The unit, formed in many countries with highly trained officers following the emergence of new form of crimes worldwide, will be set up at the Criminal Investigation Department headquarters in Dhaka at a cost of \$87,000 (about Tk 9 crore) under the police reforms programme.

Three young officers of the rank of assistant superintendent have already received training in the United Kingdom. They are now attached with the Criminal Investigation Department, doing primary jobs.

A complete data bank containing records on crimes, criminals, arrested people, investigation reports, confessions and related photographs would be set up under the new initiative of the programme, launched by the United Nations Development Programme, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Commission.

The task of the unit will be to conduct research and analyse crime data with the help of analytical software in which the three officers have been trained and to detect crime networks and inform the police headquarters of the matters.

There is now no mechanism in place to compare and analysis criminal data and alert the police to warning threats in time. The capacity will be developed once the unit starts functioning.

Only young officers will be posted to the unit after being trained abroad and they will not be transferred.

'Criminal intelligence plays a crucial role in modern-day law enforcement to detect organised crimes such as bombing, money laundering and security fraud,' said an official of the police reforms programme.

If a crime boss orchestrates a crime sitting far from the place of occurrence, the official said the unit would be able to locate him by analysing the data and other related information kept in the data bank.

If there had been such a unit in the country, the August 17, 2005 series of bombings could have been averted well before by analysing the movement of the criminals and data coming from various places, the official said.

'Culprits can also be detected after the crime by analysing the data and profiles of criminals,' he said, referring to the detection in Bali bombing.

An increasing number of countries have now been putting in place the analytical techniques with the police over a decade.

International organisations, such as Interpol, Europol and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia have now criminal intelligence analysts.

'Bangladesh is not far away from using crime intelligence analysis,' additional inspector general of police NBK Tripura, who is also the national project director of

the police reforms programme, told New Age.

He said the enhanced capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate intelligence data would play a pivotal role in the response by police to the reports of organised crime, particularly in relation to human trafficking and drug smuggling.

The three assistant superintendents of police trained in the United Kingdom — Sunanda Roy, Fatiha Yesmin and Md Alimuzzaman — are very enthusiastic about work.

Sunanda Roy said the analysis techniques she had learnt would help in complex investigations and intelligence analysis.

Asked what kind of crimes could be investigated, Alimuzzaman said the lessons they had learnt were designed for a wide range of investigations, including counterterrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, securities fraud, credit card fraud, insurance fraud, forensic accounting, organised crime, major incident, immigration control, theft identification, corporate security and threat assessment.

'It is time for us to work in a better way to combat crimes and what we have learnt will help us to do that,' said Fatiha Yesmin.