

## Deterioration of law and order situation

Wednesday, 01 October 2008

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The rise of incidents of extortion, mugging and other sorts of crimes, mark deterioration in the law and order situation in the city recently which has worried and disturbed the government greatly and prompted it to ask the law enforcers to deal with the law breakers firmly. But no indication of any improvement in the situation is visible yet. Meanwhile, Transport leaders and workers on Friday threatened to paralyze the transport sector by launching tougher protest programmes if the administration fails to stop extortion and provide security. They also demanded action against the people who shot dead Parvez - a counterman at Gabtoli Bus Terminal on September 11, and urged the government to take measures against the extortionists and the killers of Parvez. They alleged that the transport owners have to pay tolls regularly to extortionists, and the traffic police and highway police also take their share. Not only the transport sector, garments, markets, shopping malls and business houses are also affected seriously by the extortion drives launched by criminals and toll collectors ahead of holy Eid. Industrialists and businessmen are finding it difficult to sit in their offices due to frequent visits there by toll collectors and telephone calls of terrors asking for tolls. Many of them are learnt to have stopped attending offices nowadays. Besides, incidents of crimes including mugging, theft, robbery, abduction and murder have recorded a spurt in the in the recent days forcing the police department to admit frankly the deterioration in the law and order situation. Even the Home Adviser at a recent meeting expressed concern over deterioration in law and order situation and cited it as an impediment to the lifting of emergency. Like the owners of transports and the leaders of the transport workers, the owners of garments factories also have sought government protection from the extortionists and trouble mongers who are out to destabilize the vital garments sector. Against these backdrop, the government should step up their drives against the criminals and crimes to ensure the security of lives and properties of the citizens.