

I have inherited many of this city's problems: Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said he inherited many of the city's problems after taking charge as mayor.

The mayor made the comment while visiting the construction site of a modern slaughter house at Kaptan Bazar.

He said DSCC is gradually taking steps against those issues.

Taposh said although car-parking area at every market is mandatory, many markets constructed shops at the areas instead.

He further said that they have already taken steps to evict shops at a market, and they plan to take similar measures at all markets under DSCC.

He said they will recover the old Buriganga channel as per instruction of the PM, and have already appointed Military Institute of Science and Technology as consultant. "MIST has submitted a primary report, and DSCC is working on it," he said.

"We'll reclaim old Buriganga channel and create an aesthetic atmosphere, with the channel being garbage-free. City dwellers will be able to enjoy an open, beautiful place there," Taposh said.

During the visit, the mayor showed his resentment towards slow construction work of the slaughterhouse.



BEAUTIFICATION? A number of iron structures were built on the footpaths to spruce up the capital's Gulistan area. However, unidentified miscreants have broken off and stolen a number of them, while a few lie on the streets in a dangerous manner, with rods sticking out in a way that can hurt pedestrians and damage vehicles anytime. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Sleepwalking into crime

Youth claims at court after being caught red-handed trying to break into ATM

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

He was caught red-handed while trying to dismantle an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) from a booth of a private bank, and handed to police.

But when police produced Alif Sakin Habib (20) in front of a judge, he claimed that he does not remember the incident at all.

Habib said that in the midnight of October 31, he took several sedatives, as he had sleep issues, and later got out on a ride with his motorcycle from his Matuail residence.

"I can't remember anything else," police quoted him as saying in court. However, it was not hard for law enforcers to prove his misdeed, by showing CCTV footage at the court and other evidence like a recovered shovel, two knives, two screwdrivers, and a backpack.

Jahidul Islam Shohag, assistant commissioner of Motijheel zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police shared the incident with this correspondent yesterday. The Daily Star has also obtained a copy of court documents recording the accused's statement.

Around 5:30am on October 31, Habib entered a Brac Bank ATM booth in the capital's Motijheel, wearing helmet and mask, said police sources.

Habib asked security guard Jashim Uddin for help by saying he is trying to withdraw money using a "foreign card" but was not getting it. When the guard came to help him, he held the guard at knifepoint and tied him up.

Habib stabbed Jashim's neck, snatched his cell phone, and locked him in the server room of the ATM booth by taking away the key.

"He then unscrewed the ATM with screwdriver and shovels, and ripped all connected wires, and pulled out both CCTV cameras," said police.

The security guard shouted for help and people of the area nabbed Habib red-handed.

Shah Abdul Aziz, sub-inspector of Motijheel Police station, said that youth is unemployed. "We are looking into his background, as a youth was also seen on CCTV trying to rob an ATM booth of another bank in the dead of night on October 28," he said.

BLOGGER OYASIQUR MURDER Charges reframed against 5 militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday reframed charges against five members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in a case filed over the murder of blogger Oyasiquur Rahman Babu in 2015.

Judge Md Rabiul Alam of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka read out a new charge -- conspiracy to kill blogger Oyasiquur before murder -- against the ABT men in the case.

Earlier, a Dhaka court framed two charges against the five on July 20, 2016.

Three accused -- Zikrullah alias Hasan, Ariful Islam alias Mushfiq and Md Saiful Islam -- are now in jail. Two others -- Akram Hossain Hasib alias Abdullah and Junayed alias Taher -- are on the run.

The court set November 12 for next hearing of the case.

On October 27, the same court withdrew its decision to pronounce judgment of the case against the five accused.

The judge passed the order after assistant Public Prosecutor Md Salahuddin Howlader submitted two petitions -- one for withdrawal of the judgment and the other for reframing charges against the accused in the case.

'Help them survive winter, Covid'

Civil society organisations urge Bosnian govt to send aid to stranded Bangladeshi migrants in peril

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants yesterday expressed grave concern about the wretched conditions of several hundred Bangladeshis currently stranded in different locations near the Croatia-Bosnia border.

In a statement, BCSM, a platform of leading civil society organisations in Bangladesh working on migration, urged the Bosnian government to provide food, shelter, and emergency medical services to protect these people from the coronavirus pandemic and cold winter.

It also urged Bangladesh government and international organisations including Red Cross, International Labour Organisation, and International Organisation for Migration to immediately intervene to protect them, reads the statement.

German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) recently reported on the plight of the Bangladeshis, estimated over 500, living in forests and rundown buildings for several months.

These stranded Bangladeshis were lured by "human traffickers" from Bangladesh with networks in the Middle East and Europe, BCSM said citing the DW report. Each of them reportedly paid \$10,000 to \$14,000 to reach a rich European country.

They made several attempts to enter Croatia but were detained by security forces and pushed back to Bosnia.

Croatian border guards reportedly beat the Bangladeshis and snatched away their belongings including money, phones and winter clothes.

"To the best of our knowledge, the Bangladesh government has not yet made any major initiative to redress

their sufferings," said the statement.

BCSM feared with the onset of winter, if no immediate action is taken to rescue them from the forests where they are living under open sky and in tents, some may not survive.

BCSM urged the Bosnian government to provide humanitarian support to this group of people.

It also appealed to Bangladesh government to rescue them and ensure that effective measures are taken to curb all forms of irregular migration including human trafficking and human smuggling from the country.

BCSM also urged European countries to make provisions for regular migration.

The statement signatories include RMMRU, BASUG-Diaspora and Development, WARBE Development Foundation, Brac, Ain o Salish Kendra, and Manusher Jonno Foundation.

350 Kalyanpur fire victims left roofless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 350 people who used to live in Kalyanpur's Notun Bazar slum, which was burned down in a devastating fire on October 30, are now spending their days under the open sky.

While visiting the place, this correspondent found some people sleeping where their homes used to stand, some sitting under trees with their families, and some others roaming around their former homes.

Hadis Bepari (75), a resident of the slum for the last 27 years, said he and his family have been living on the streets for the last four days.

"We did get relief materials and Tk 2,000 cash from the local MP, but we cannot rebuild our house with this," a grief-stricken Hadis said. He urged the government to arrange a small loan facility for the affected. According to him, at least Tk 30,000 is needed to build a house.

"Back in the days, we used to get loans from NGOs and local multi-purpose co-operatives in case any accident took place in the slum. But this time, due to the Covid-19 situation, we aren't getting any of that," he said.

Most of the slum-dwellers echoed these sentiments and urged influential people to come forward and stand by them.

Justice served after 10 years

Man sentenced to life term for rape and forced abortion of teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman yesterday finally got justice, 10 long years after her rape and enforced abortion.

A Rangpur court sentenced the lone accused man to life-term imprisonment for rape and jailed him 10 more years and fined Tk 1 lakh for forced abortion, court sources said.

Judge Rokonuzzaman of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-2 delivered the judgement in a crowded courtroom in absence of convict Mosfekur Rahman (34), said Jahangir Alam, public prosecutor of the court. The victim was a tenth grader during the incident.

According to prosecution, Mosfekur Rahman, a neighbour of the victim, raped girl several times "with promise to marry". She was last raped on February 5, 2010.

When she became pregnant, she asked him to marry her, but he refused. Moreover, he forced her to abort the baby, said police.

Afterwards, elder brother of the girl filed the case with Badarganj Police Station accusing Mosfekur Rahman on May 22, 2010.

JOURNALIST GOLAM SARWAR ABDUCTION

Case filed against six unidentified persons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Journalist Golam Sarwar, who was abducted on October 29 and discovered four days later, yesterday filed a case with the port city's Kotwali Police Station accusing six unidentified people.

Sarwar was accompanied by some senior leaders of Chattogram Union of Journalists (CUJ) when he went to the station to file the case.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohamed Mohsin of Kotwali Police Station confirmed the filing, saying that police are still investigating the incident and trying to arrest the criminals.

Before filing the case, Sarwar talked to media at the office of CUJ and described his experience of the abduction and torture.

He said he still feels frightened every time he remembers the traumatic incident.

He thanked his colleagues and journalist union leaders for coming to his support.

"I demand the immediate arrest of the criminals so that no one dares to repeat such an incident with other journalists," Sarwar told journalists there.

Mohammed Ali, President of CUJ, said "We (CUJ) have formed a lawyer's panel to fight the legal battle against the abductors."

"We will provide all kinds of support to Golam Sarwar so that he can move the case without any difficulties," said Mohammed Ali.

After going missing from the port city on October 29, the journalist working with a local online news portal was found unconscious beside a canal at Sitakunda's Kumira area on the evening of November 1.

He was found lying at the spot stripped off his clothes.



Yesterday was the last day of the 22-day hilsa netting ban in the Bay of Bengal that started on October 14. In preparation for setting out on sea again, fishers at Barishal's Rosulpur area were spotted getting their nets ready.

PHOTO: TITU DAS



The towering pillars of Moghbazar-Tejgaon flyover are covered with posters to advertise all sorts of stuff, from films and rentals to educational institutes and medical clinics. And as days go by, these pieces of paper degrade or get torn off, but what stays is the unappealing sight for residents and passers-by to witness.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

COUNTERFEIT NOTES CASE

Rab presses charges against Shahed, Regent MD

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has pressed charges against Regent Group Chairperson Mohammad Shahed and Managing Director Masud Parvez, in a case filed over possessing fake notes worth Tk 1.14 lakh.

Mohammad Zakir Hossain, a sub-inspector of Rab-1 and investigation officer of the case, on Tuesday submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing 13 people as prosecution witnesses.

The charge sheet will be placed before the court on November 22 for its next course of action.

According to prosecution, on July 15, a Rab-1 team raided a house at the capital's Uttara around 8:40pm and seized fake notes worth Tk 1,14,500 from the accused's possession. Later, Rab filed a case against them with Uttara Paschim Police Station under Special Powers Act.

On September 28, Shahed was sentenced to life imprisonment in an arms case.

Shahed was arrested on July 15 from Satkhira, when he was trying to leave the country on a boat, while Masud was arrested from Gazipur on July 14.

TK 80 LAKH GRAFT CASE

Court frames charges against ex-DIG prisons Partha Gopal Banik

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Partha Gopal Banik, a suspended deputy inspector general (prisons) of Sylhet division, in a case filed over the recovery of Tk 80 lakh from his residence in Dhaka.

Partha, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Md Nazrul Islam of Special Judge's Court-10 of Dhaka read out charges to him.

The court also set November 18 for starting trial of the case.

On August 24 this year, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Md Salauddin, also investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

Fourteen people were made prosecution witnesses in the charge sheet. In the charge sheet, the IO said the charges of "illegally acquiring wealth through money laundering" brought against Partha were primarily proven, so he should be brought under trial.

On July 29 last year, ACC Director Mohammad Yousuf quizzed Partha over allegations that he committed irregularities and corruption as DIG (prisons) of Chattogram division. The interrogation continued at the ACC headquarters for about four hours.

After interrogation, the ACC team, accompanied by Partha, went to his Green Road residence in the capital and recovered the money.

They later detained him and showed him arrested after the case was filed against him on the same day.

The following day, Partha was sent to jail after he was produced before a Dhaka court.