



Badaam Tali Ghat (Ferry Point) was founded by Nawab Shajesta Khan during his regime between 1664 and 1677. Historians think there were some Badam (pea-nut) trees which the area was named after. There was also a wooden palace near the area that belonged to Nawab himself. However, the Nawab very often lived in a tent put up in the palace premises. The tent was then known as Katra Pakurtali.

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City witnesses sudden rise in crime

Police were busy with political programmes, labour unrest and other incidents, says DMP Commissioner

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The city is experiencing a killing spree for the last few days, indicating an alarming rise in crimes and slide in overall law and order situation.

Five people were murdered within 24 hours last Thursday. More than 46 people including women and children were killed in the city in last one month.

The number of robbery, mugging and burglary also rose unusually.

On May 25, unknown criminals brutally murdered three indigenous people in Uttara. Police recovered the body of a man in Demra and a man killed his wife in Shyampur.

Just six days ago, three people including an 11-year-old boy were killed in the city.

Schoolboy Jisan Ahmed was killed in Thakaribazar area while another two people, including a re-rolling mill worker, were shot dead in Shyampur on May 19. An unidentified girl was murdered in Shyampur two days before the double murder.

When asked, the high officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

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Government measures to increase the number of police stations in the city to ensure security of the residents seem to be ineffective. In the last two years the number of police stations has been doubled but criminal activities continued to rise



Two of three muggers who were nabbed by police of the New Market police station at road no 4 in Dhanmondi, recently.

(DMP) admitted the rising trend in criminal activities in the capital.

"Due to unstable political situation, labour unrest and other movements in the city we had to deploy extra force to control these incidents. It has disrupted regular police patrol and thus rose

anticrime activities," said DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman.

Government measures to increase the number of police stations in the city to ensure security of the residents seem to be ineffective. In the last two years

the number of police stations has been doubled but criminal activities continued to rise.

The city now has 28 police stations. However the government is now planning to raise the number of police stations to 52 in the city. But the question is will

such steps make any difference?

"We are confident that the situation will improve as DB (Detective Branch), CID (Criminal Investigation Department), Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) and police are now working jointly to check crimes in the city," said

Rahman.

Robberies in gold shops have also increased. Four daring robbers in jewellery shops took place in the last one month. The robbers looted 910 bhoris of gold but the police could not recover a single bhoris of the looted gold.

The jewellers are very anxious about the future of their business.

"If the situation continues to deteriorate in this way it would destroy the whole jewellery industry," said MA Wadud Khan, president, Bangladesh Jewellers Samity (BJS).

Robberies in residential areas have also risen alarmingly. More than 50 robberies took place in different areas in the city in the last one month.

Robbers looted 30 bhoris of gold and Tk 1 lakh in cash from a house in city's Dilu Road two weeks ago. "Police did not arrest any of the robbers yet. They just took our domestic helps under their custody," said Zahid Zahir Ullah, a victim of the robbery.

This was the second robbery in Dilu Road in the last two months.

"A small part of the plan, taken to handle the situation, was implemented and things came under control with that."

-- Lutfozzaman Babar

State Minister for Home

Told reporters at his office about the recent spate of violence by garment workers in the apparel hubs in Gazipur, Savar and Dhaka, on Wednesday.

Source: Prothom Alo

"I used to get Tk 700 a month for working 14 hours a day -- 8:00am to 10:00pm -- without any day off."

-- Bashar

A worker of Universe Knitting Garments Ltd (UKGT)

Told reporters that his wage increased up to Tk 1,200 three months ago, a trifling amount against the spiralling price of the essentials, on Wednesday.

Source: The Daily Star

"There is no failure in preparing the voter list and the answer is no, no, an emphatic no!"

-- MA Aziz

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

Told a reporter at his 10-minute press conference sans questions, who asked him if he would resign admitting the "failure", on Sunday.

Source: The Daily Star

"I do not see any difference between a new voter list and an updated one apart from different words used to describe them"

-- Barrister Nazmul Huda
Communications Minister

Told reporters about the new voter list, on Saturday.

Source: Prothom Alo

"How can the power sector improve? When a tender is called 'brothers' and 'nephews' are busy eating the pie"

-- Abdul Awal Mintu

Former president, FBCCI

Told at a press conference in the city, on Saturday.

Source: Prothom Alo

"The leaders we made in the last 30 years are useless. We could not make skilled, courageous and sincere leaders. Now I can understand my mistakes"

-- Colonel (Rtd) Oli Ahmed

BNP leader

Told in a meeting at Chittagong, on Tuesday.

Source: Daily Jugantor

Mobile courts come under attack

Restaurant owners' allegation of harassment denied by magistrate

CITY CORRESPONDENT

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Hotel and restaurant owners of Topkhana Road opposite the National Press Club, have alleged that mobile courts of Dhaka City Corporation are harassing them every month in the name of drive against adulterated food.

But a mobile court led by Magistrate Tapan Kumar Biswas vehemently denied the allegation.

Employees of different residential hotels and restaurants in that area attacked the members of a mobile court during a raid on May 21.

This was the second attack in one month on mobile courts during drives in the capital.

Employees allegedly led by

owners of the hotels and restaurants attacked the mobile team when it arrived to inspect those establishments for the second time in a span of two weeks.

An employee of Hotel Cafe Baghda said: "In the name of the drive, mobile courts often harass us and charge huge fines showing silly causes, thus hampering our business."

The mobile court team demanded Tk 1,00,000 from us for no reason," alleged Saiful Alam, an employee of Hotel Madhurima.

However Tapan Kumar Biswas denied it. "We don't harass them without a reason. They are not our enemies. We take action according to the law only," he said.

"According to article number 6(A) of DCC, we fine only when we find intoxicated food. Similarly we also fine under article 6 (C) for adulterated food, 14 (B) for uncovered food and 13, 14 for unhygienic kitchens," he added.

Asked why they were attacked twice in a month, he said: "Our objective is to grow consciousness among everyone about food, but hotel owners think that we are charging them unlawfully."

"Moreover, we slap fines on them so that they don't repeat the same mistakes," said the magistrate.

He in turn alleged that owners were misguiding people by saying that the mobile courts are wrong.

On the day in question, the hotel employees, carrying bam-

boo sticks and iron rods came out on the busy Topkhana Road around 2 pm and damaged police vehicles before chasing them and the mobile team officials out of the area halting traffic for about half an hour.

The protesters attacked a police pickup van and hit a policeman with a bamboo stick. Later, more police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control in 15 minutes.

Police then chased the protesters and detained three restaurant employees from the spot but failed to nab the mastermind behind the damages.

Biswas said: "The mobile court fined them because we found the environment dirty, the kitchen unhygienic and food

uncovered at the restaurants."

A case was filed after the incident. When contacted, Faisal Islam, sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station said: "The case against the hotel and restaurant employees is under process on charges of contempt of court and creating obstruction to government work."

On April 16, employees and officials of 'Nabisco Biscuit and Bread Factory', a concern of Bhaiya Group, at Tejgaon Commercial Area attacked a mobile court, which was also led by Tapan Kumar Biswas.



Restaurant employees at Topkhana Road damaged a police van protesting mobile court raid on May 21.