



CRIME BY LOWER-TIER COPS Top brass find it hard to tackle

Corruption in recruitment, political links seen as reasons for recklessness



"Nobody will be spared if found to have misused power."

DMP COMMISSIONER ASADUZZAMAN MIA ABOUT POLICE CORRUPTION AND HIGHHANDEDNESS.

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The suspension of four policemen of Darus Salam Police Station in October over alleged extortion was no one-off.

Since December last year, over a dozen such cases in the DMP area have put the police image in the dock.

Take the example of Shamsuzzoha Farhad and his wife. The couple were totally shocked when two police officers appeared at their door in the city's Rupnagar and demanded a hefty sum if they wanted to avoid landing in jail.

"There are numerous allegations against you. Give us Tk 5 lakh or else you and your family members will be taken to the police station and then to court in five cases," the policemen threatened Farhad, as the couple sat in their apartment on December 8 last year.

Frightened, Farhad allegedly gave Sub-Inspector Firoz Wahid and Assistant Sub-Inspector Mizan Tk 2.85 lakh.

Later, he lodged a complaint with the deputy commissioner of Mirpur division against the two cops and took shelter in a relative's house to avoid harassment. In fear of retribution, however, he withdrew the complaint within a few days, he said.

This incident was not reported in the media, but about a dozen cases of police brutality and bribery that came to light since then have left a deep scar on the image of the force (see chart).

"On a look into the law and order situation, we have reasons to believe that it [law enforcement agencies] has forgotten its core value that it is accountable to the community it serves..." the Supreme Court said in its full verdict on the arbitrary use of powers by law enforcement agencies

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Mahboob Robbani teaching underprivileged children at his home in the capital's Mirpur on Friday. The 38-year old, who is lovingly called *Mama* (uncle), also provides many such children with their school fees, free books, clothes and food.

Clouds over 'Mama Bari'

Committed to create happiness for disadvantaged children, Mahboob himself ends up with serious illness

KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

There are many around us who we know help as much as they can; few, however, can match 38-year-old Mahboob Robbani, better known as "Mama" to his loved ones.

A resident of Dhaka's Mirpur, Mahboob has been a guardian, mentor, teacher and friend to 70 children for the past seven years. His story is nothing short of an inspiration.

Mahboob began supporting a few underprivileged children from his locality and provided for their school fees, uniforms, books, food, and even arranged a little stipend for their families out of his own pocket. He also started hosting weekly get-togethers at his own home. The children were elated at spending time with their *Mama*, and he helped them with their homework, which gradually blossomed further into activities such as art and music lessons to writing poetry and

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Mahboob Robbani

BB gets back \$15m of stolen money from Philippines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank has received \$15.25 million from the Philippines' anti-money laundering council, nine months after hackers stole \$81 million from the central bank's account with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

On Friday, Bangladesh's ambassador to the Philippines John Gomes accepted the money in cash in presence of a two-member team of the central bank's anti-money laundering department in Manila, BB Deputy Governor

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Stop ads for Rampal plant

Nat'l committee to save Sundarbans urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect the Sundarbans yesterday called upon the government to stop all advertisements in favour of Rampal power plant, reiterating its demand for immediately cancelling the project.

"I have seen at least two advertisements [in favour of

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Dhaka down Rangpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Dynamites's 78-run win against the Rangpur Riders at Mirpur yesterday night defied two ongoing trends in the Bangladesh Premier League.

The first is that teams batting second in the night game can win and secondly, it is possible to post high totals on the slow wickets that the tournament is currently being played on.

These are crucial points since yesterday was the first time that a team batting first in a night game managed to win. Dhaka also posted the highest total of the competition yesterday. Prior to yesterday's match the average first innings score in the night game this season was 115.

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BLOGGER KILLING Key cyber watch cell militant held

Police say hit list was prepared based on his team's reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives say they held a militant whose job was to monitor online activities of free-thinking bloggers and secular activists, identify possible targets and report to the military wing commander of Ansar al-Islam.

Khairul Islam alias Jamil alias Rifat alias Fahim alias Jisan, 24, also a key suspect in the killing of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy and publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan, was arrested near Kamalapur Railway Station on Friday night.

He admitted monitoring activities of Niladri and Dipan and passing on the intelligence to sacked army major Syed Ziaul Haque, the military wing commander of the militant outfit.

Known in the militant circle as *Boro Bhai* (big brother), Zia played a vital role in every targeted killing linked to Ansar al-Islam, said Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of police.

Khairul, who was recruited in 2014 for his expertise in information technology, admitted meeting Zia for the last time on September 26 this year in some place on the outskirts of Dhaka.

He told investigators that he had four to five men as teammates, and all of them were tasked with monitoring online activities of persons the outfit considered "anti-Islam".



Khairul Islam

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