



NATURE FINDS A WAY... New leaves sprout from the stump of a felled tree, possibly decades old, inside Suhrawardy Udyan. In early May, a number of trees were felled at the historic park to make way for food stalls, before an uproar from environmentalists prompted government authorities to halt the works. This photo -- of new life in defiance of the gentrification at the park -- was taken earlier this week.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'All about ensuring services to people'

Says Dhaka Range police chief Habibur Rahman

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN AND HASAN MEER

With 13 districts, 42 circles and 96 police stations under its jurisdiction, Dhaka range is one of the most important institutions of police that not only ensures safety and security of people but also oversees and monitors services provided by law enforcers. Recently, it brought all of its police stations under CCTV surveillance to improve services. In an interview with The Daily Star, Dhaka range police chief Deputy Inspector General Habibur Rahman spoke about their endeavours, challenges and plans to improve services.



For example, if a woman, elderly person or a person with disabilities comes to a station and has to wait for long, we can inform officials to help them right away.

We can also oversee whether officials are recording victims' complaints properly.

Most importantly, CCTV installation helps create a deterrent effect on unfriendly behaviour of officers towards people.

On April 8, Saltha Police Station in Faridpur came under attack during a Hefajat demonstration, and our senior officials from the range guided the police station's officials about steps to take.

The Daily Star (DS): You have recently brought all police stations of Dhaka range under CCTV surveillance. Can you tell us how productive the step has been?

Habibur Rahman: We have installed around 288 CCTV cameras in 96 police stations of the range, and we can now directly give instructions from the Dhaka office to police station officials.

Through the system, we can see the activities, hear conversations and record movement of duty officials. If any official does not perform duties accordingly, we are aware of it immediately. We can also observe and hear help-seekers at the stations and evaluate how satisfied they were with services.

DS: Do you take action if any anomaly is found or someone lodges a complaint regarding services?

Habibur Rahman: District superintendents of police are authorised to monitor police stations under their jurisdiction. In three teams, we do round-the-clock monitoring of CCTVs under command of additional deputy inspector generals (DIG, operations).

We take two types of actions -- instant and investigative. If any official is not in uniform or not listening to help seekers, we ask the seniors or local SPs to take action against them. If any official is found involved in a serious crime, we ask the local authority to launch an investigation.

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JS SESSION BEGINS

PM condemns Israeli attack on Palestine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament yesterday expressed its condolences to Palestinians killed in the recent Israeli airstrikes.

Describing the Israeli attack on Palestine as inhumane, Prime Minister Hasina said that what happened in Palestine is inhumane. The cries of the little children there, their helplessness, wandering around without parents -- are hard to see.

The premier said this while participating in the discussion on the obituary motion over the demise of ruling AL leaders -- Cumilla-5 lawmaker Abdul Matin Khasru, and Dhaka-14 MP Aslamul Haque.

Strongly condemning the Israeli massacre, Hasina expressed her utter criticism of the killings of Palestinian people by Israel.

Explaining Bangladesh's position on the Palestine issue, Sheikh Hasina said, "We are always with the brothers of Palestine."

We have cooperated them in the past. We will definitely continue this cooperation."

A freedom fighter, president of Supreme Court Bar Association and five-time MP Abdul Matin Khasru died of Covid-19 on April 14 at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka. He was 71.

Three-time MP Aslamul Hoque

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No Hefajat activist to be arrested without specific allegations: JS body chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, also the chairman of cabinet committee on law and order, yesterday said that no Hefajat-e-Islam leaders or supporters would be arrested in future without any specific allegations.

The minister was addressing reporters at the secretariat after the end of a cabinet committee meeting yesterday.

He said the overall law and order situation is normal and the home ministry is performing its duties efficiently.

"Hefajat issues has been discussed in the meeting. No one has been arrested without specific allegations and it has been decided that no one will be arrested in the future without allegations. We will take action if evidence is found against anyone about involvement in crime," he said.

The minister said, "If any wrong message goes before nation about arrest of any scholars, then it is not correct. Under no circumstances will any arrest be made without any specific charges."

Law enforcers have been asked to be vigilant so that the law is not abused in the name of any party or community, said the minister.

'FOREIGNERS WITH EXPIRED VISA INVOLVED IN CRIME'

Mozammel Haque said some foreign nationals' visas have expired, but they are not leaving the country.

"They are not going back showing excuses like airline service being off and someone saying they have no money," he said.

But according to intelligence reports, most of these foreigners are involved in crime, he said, adding that arrangements will be made to bring them under the law and keep them in a safe zone.

If they have no money then the government will collect tickets and send them back to their country, said the minister.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad and State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain were also present in the meeting, among others.

MINISTER'S CELL PHONE SNATCHING In reply to a reporters' query on how a minister's cell phone can be snatched if the law and order is normal, Mozammel Haque said it was an isolated incident.

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Resorting to fraudulence Tufan Sarkar can't seek bail from any court: apex court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court ruling that Tufan Sarkar, a suspended Sramik League leader of Bogura who is accused of committing corruption, cannot seek bail from any court for six months for resorting to fraudulence.

The apex court also refused to grant bail to Tufan -- who came to the limelight after allegedly raping a college girl and shaving heads of the victim and her mother in Bogura in July, 2017 -- in the corruption case against him.

A full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed an appeal filed by Tufan Sarkar challenging the HC order and also seeking bail in the case.

Tufan cannot get released from jail following the SC order, ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star. He also said the apex court passed the order considering that the HC ruling is correct.

Lawyer Sharif Uddin Chaklader appeared for Tufan Sarkar.

The HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim on April 1 this year ruled that Tufan Sarkar cannot seek bail from any court for six months for resorting to fraudulence.

Tufan committed forgery with the HC

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Mobilising \$100b for climate action a matter of trust

Says COP26 chief Alok Sharma

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UK lawmaker and COP26 president Alok Sharma is urging developed countries to step up efforts to mobilise \$100 billion annually, as pledged in 2015, to support climate vulnerable countries for climate adaptation and mitigation.

"I have made this case to donor countries around the world and said this \$100 billion is a matter of trust, and it is very important that we deliver on it," he said at a joint press conference, after a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

Sharma, who arrived early yesterday on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, after visiting Vietnam and Indonesia ahead of the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow in November, is drumming up support for climate ambitions of the countries.

Noting that the UK coal-based power projects should be a history, Sharma said many of the power plants [in Bangladesh] are not going to go ahead and can be replaced with clean energy.

Bangladesh has a potential of 40 gigawatts of renewable energy, which can be produced by 2041.

"Bangladesh is working on wind power onshore and offshore. Let's see what comes. We are keen to see that transition," he said.

At the joint press conference, AK Abdul Momen said Bangladesh is scaling down coal-power projects.

"We plan to have 40 percent renewable energy by 2041,

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25
years of trusted economic and social partnership

On this occasion:

We pay our profound respect to the Greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** on his birth centenary.

We also remember with profound respect the sacrifice of our freedom fighters, martyrs and war heroes on the golden jubilee of our independence.

And we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our valued clients, patrons and well-wishers.

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