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## Militancy not fully eradicated but under control

Says DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandaker Golam Faruq yesterday said although militancy has not been completely eradicated from the country, it is under control.

"We must remain vigilant as the latent seeds of militancy may still exist," he said during a conversation with reporters after paying tribute to the two policemen who were killed in the attack at the Holey Artisan Café.

Recalling the tragic events of July 1, 2016, Faruq mentioned that foreign nationals were held hostage and killed by militants in the café, resulting in the sacrifice of two brave policemen during the rescue operation.

Faruq highlighted that in 2015-16, various militant attacks were

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Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina along with her family members places a wreath at the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara of Gopalganj yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

## A light shines amid darkness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of us would go the mile for our friends, but sometimes the question becomes -- how long is that mile?

What if the mile meant giving up your life? What if you were given an easy way out, an easy way to walk out, abandoning your friends? Perhaps your friends are also asking you to walk away, they are saying they will be okay?

Let us complicate matters further -- what if your mother was waiting for you outside, as you know in your heart that she surely must be?

One can never know if these were the questions hounding

Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain on that fateful night in 2016 when militants stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan and killed everyone in sight. Their main targets were foreigners and non-Muslims.

Faraaz, 20, son of Simeen Hossain and Waqer Hossain, and a student of Emory University in Atlanta, USA, was given the option of walking out because he was a Bangladeshi Muslim but he had to leave his friends Abinta Kabir and Tarishi Jain behind.

How long is the mile you ask? Faraaz answered it in that moment -- for our friends, there is no

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## Focus on development not politics

Momen urges aid agencies; UN deputy under secy in town

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the development agencies should not focus on politics but on development as it faces major challenges amid the Ukraine-Russia war.

"It is regrettable that many of our development partners and institutions remain busy with politics. I told them all development agencies should focus on development issues, not on politics," he said after a meeting with UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J Mohammed at the Foreign Service Academy.

Momen said he shared this message to the UN official, who came to Bangladesh yesterday afternoon on her second leg of visit after China.

Amina called on

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# Dhaka cleaned up promptly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The combined efforts of Dhaka's city corporations and residents managed to clean the capital within the three days of Eid.

Residents were encouraged to maintain proper disposal and clean surroundings with bleach, and they were seen following the instructions in many areas.

Besides, many were satisfied with the city corporations' prompt steps.

"After sacrificing our cattle, we cleaned the area and left the waste at the roadside, which was then collected by conservancy workers quickly," said Faruk Ahmed, a resident of Mirpur-2.

"After the sacrifice, we personally cleaned the area. The city corporation also helped us clean the waste," said Monwar Hossain of Tikatuli.

Earlier, the two mayors announced that they would ensure that the city would be completely cleaned.

DSCC has cleaned up 18,852.65 tonnes of animal and cattle market waste in the last three



City corporation workers collecting waste from a roadside in the English Road area of the Old Dhaka during Eid.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

days till yesterday, while DNCC cleaned up 22,387 tonnes during the same period, according to the corporations' public relations departments.

The city residents demonstrated a heightened sense of responsibility towards managing sacrificial waste this year,

surpassing previous years' efforts. The city corporations provided polybags to sanitation workers for the collection of waste from sacrificial animals. Individuals who did not receive polybags from the city corporation proactively purchased bags themselves

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## GONO ODHIKAR Amid row, Reza Kibria removed as convener

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday removed Reza Kibria from his role as convener and replaced him with Rashed Khan, who served as the joint convener, despite objections from several party leaders.

"The decision of impeaching the convener was taken as the two-third members of the central committee supported the proposal..." reads a press release of the organisation signed by its office secretary Shakil Uzzaman.

The party also decided to hold its first ever council on July 10.

However, Reza Kibria did not attend the meeting citing security concerns and "to avoid chaos".

According to meeting and party sources, member secretary Nurul Haque Nur first brought up the subject

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## Committee formed to probe anomalies by Capt Sazid

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has formed a high-powered investigation committee and fact-finding team to identify anomalies and irregularities by Capt Sazid Ahmed of training division during 2021-2023.

In a circular, the national flag carrier said recent reports in the media have highlighted issues such as allegations of nepotism, financial discrepancies,



**The committee will also investigate the allegations of nepotism raised against Captain Sazid in all newspapers and media forum.**

and intentional delay in crew training, which has resulted in defamation of the airline's image in international and local media forums.

"Given the seriousness of these allegations and the potential negative impact on our airline's operations, it is imperative that a thorough investigation be conducted to ascertain the veracity of these claims and identify any lapses or wrongdoings," reads the circular.

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## LOWER COURTS

# Case disposal rate increases to 30pc

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The case disposal rate at lower courts has increased to 22.03 percent last year and to 30 percent in the first quarter of the current year compared to the rate of disposal in 2019.

The subordinate courts across the country have disposed of a total 3,53,375 cases in the first quarter (January to March) of the current year while a total 3,52,448 cases were filed.

It means that 100.26 percent cases were settled in comparison to the rate of filing of new cases, according to a statement recently issued by the Supreme Court administration.

It said the lower court judges have disposed of a total 13,78,522 cases since January to December last year while a total of 14,70,957 cases were lodged, which means that the rate of disposal was 93.72 percent compared to the filing last year.

The courts could not carry out their normal functions in 2020 and 2021 due Covid-19 pandemic.

The rates of case disposals have increased at the subordinate courts because of different steps and monitoring systems initiated by Chief Justice Hasan

Foez Siddique, SC's Appellate Division Registrar Mohammad Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He said the chief justice has earlier assigned eight High Court judges to monitor the performances of lower courts in eight divisions.

**Although the rate of case disposal has increased in recent years, a huge backlog of around 42 lakh cases is pending with the courts across the country, including the Appellate and HC divisions, causing immeasurable sufferings to the litigants.**

Besides, the chief justice himself monitors and supervises their activities and issues necessary directives.

Saifur said more than 1,200 judges have been recruited to the subordinate courts in the last 10 years and recruitment of 100 new judges is under process.

After their recruitments are completed,

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With three passengers in the back, two more next to the driver's seat and two others standing on the side bars, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw plies the Dhaka-Mawa expressway. Such an illegal and risky move on such a busy highway poses a serious risk of accident. The photo was taken in Keraniganj recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN