

Tormented, terrorised

Eve-teasers in Jurain killed Johnny for protesting their act. They are now threatening his parents with dire consequences if they do not backtrack

BISHAWJIT DAS

Hecklers shot dead a young man as he protested the teasing of his school-age sisters in Jurain on November 24 in a reminder of Simi Banu's suicide in torment in Khilgaon in 2001.

"Some local hoodlums teased us on our way to school and back home," said Sonia Akhtar, one of the sisters of 20-year-old Johnny, who died from bullet wounds two and a half hours after he was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"The teasers pulled our scarves, swiped at us and even once threw dirty water," said Poly, another sister, who informed her brother about the incident.

A gang of 11 nailed Johnny against a wall, stabbed and shot him dead point-blank after he challenged the hecklers in the neighbourhood at around 8:30pm.

Johnny and his family moved to the Com-

missioner Road at Jurain in Shyampur a few months before he was killed.

The death of Johnny has shaken his family to the core. Four of the six-member family worked hard to bear the educational expenses of Sonia and Poly, said their father Rafiqul Haq.

Johnny had worked in a tailoring shop in Shyampur Bazaar, his mother Haowa Begum works in a nearby pharmaceuticals factory, his father is a mason and younger brother, Ronny, is an apprentice to an electrician.

A case was filed, but police could arrest none until yesterday.

Haowa Begum told The Daily Star, "While I was returning home three days before the incident, a local youth threatened me with killing my son."

The threat came after SSC examinee Sonia, 16, and Poly, 15, students of Purba Jurain Adarsha High School, warned the teasers of action.

The gang is now pressuring the family to withdraw the case and has threatened Johnny's parents with dire consequences if they do not backtrack.

"We are scared. We live in constant fear of abduction," said Sonia, a wary look in her eyes.

Johnny's death and his sisters' tribulations rekindle the tortured memory of Simi who was bullied into committing suicide at home on December 23, 2001.

The teasers of the 21-year-old fine arts student are now threatening her family with death and sister with kidnap after the verdict on the Simi suicide case was handed down on September 28, 2002.

"We live in panic. We feel terrorised," said Zarina Begum, Simi's mother.

Simi's father Ali Emdad said, "I cannot sleep at night. They want to kill us. They threatened to drive us out of home."

In quest of a new dumping ground

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Air Force authorities have asked Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Traffic) to relocate the rickshaw dumping ground at the Old Airport premises to a suitable spot by December 31.

For the past few years, a portion of the Old Airport is being used by DMP as a graveyard for illegal rickshaws of the city. The airport falls under the jurisdiction of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF).

"As the Air Force is not willing to allow dumping of illegal rickshaws on its land anymore, we have thought of the BNP slum in Agargaon as an alternative spot," said a senior DMP official, seeking anonymity.

Director of the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate Lt. Col. Nazrul Islam explained the BAF's position.

"The DMP was granted permission to dump unauthorised rickshaws inside the airport for a few months as they did not have any other place to keep them. But a square in memory of Liberation War hero Birshrestha Shahid Flight Lt. Motiur Rahman is being planned at the same spot. That's why the rickshaws have to go," he said.

The DMP has already begun the clear-out.

"In the last one and half months, we have dispatched at least 14,000 rickshaws from the graveyard to different district towns for distribution among the poor people," said the DMP official.

"Besides, we have recently decided to send rickshaws from the dumping ground to famine-hit areas in the north of the country so that they become a source of income for the people affected there," he added.

Unofficial estimates put the number of unlicensed rickshaws in Dhaka at a staggering five lakh. These rickshaws are considered one of the main reasons for the notorious traffic snarl-ups of the city. Only 87,000 rickshaws have valid license of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

Meanwhile, roads stretching from Russell Square to Azimpur via New Market and Science Laboratory Crossing to National Press Club via Shahbagh, will be made off-limits to rickshaws and other non-motorised vehicles (NMT) from January 1, 2004.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board took the decision at a meeting recently.

Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), which is predominantly funded by the World Bank, is planning to make six more routes free of non-motorised vehicles by the year 2005.

The DUTP has targetted removing NMT from Mirpur-10 to Farmgate via Rokeya Sarani, Baridhara to Mouchak via Pragati Sarani, Bangla Motor to Mouchak via New Eskaton and Technical crossing to Mirpur-2 by the end of 2004.

The Azimpur to Syedabad route via Tikatuli and Purana Paltan to Sadarghat via North South Road is expected to be cleared of NMT by 2005.



The soon-to-be-revamped Shishu Park will feature 16 new rides.

Shishu Park to have more fun

CITY CORRESPONDENT

After years of indifference, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is finally planning to introduce 16 new attractions at Shishu Park.

Facing an ever-increasing competition from private amusement parks, the DCC has decided to repair the old rides of Shishu Park in a bid to make it more attractive.

The Shishu Park was established on a 15-acre land in 1979. The DCC became responsible for it in 1982. Before that, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation looked after the park.

Most of the fun and sport gadgets at the park are now over two decades although their life span was no more than 10 years.

"We were forced to continue with these

rides having them repaired as the authorities did not provide funds to replace the old machines," said a DCC source.

The DCC has already prepared a project proposal and estimated Tk 92 crore for new additions and renovation of park. The project proposal will be sent to the Ministry for Local Government and Rural Development shortly for approval.

At present, the Shishu Park has 12 rides including a toy train, a merry-go-round and a number of wheel-based rides. A fighter jet too was provided by the Air Force in 1992.

"Over the years, no new items have been procured for the Shishu Park. At the same time, private entrepreneurs have come up with different exciting modern fun features that have attracted children. People are even prepared to spend the high entrance charge with those facilities," said DCC's Chief Engineer Golam Quadeer.

"If the 16 new rides are introduced, the entry ticket price will still remain within the reach of the common people as this is their park. But we may raise the rate of the rides a little, but that won't be anything exorbitant," Quadeer said.

"As the visitors are mostly children we have proposed to build a pedestrian sub-way in front of Shishu Park. We will also build a separate parking area for the visitors because the park has no such place," he added.

Now Shishu Park charges Tk 5 for entry per person and Tk 4 for each ride. The park is open Monday through Thursday and Saturday from 2 pm to 7 pm while on Friday, it is open from 2.30 pm to 7.30 pm. It remains closed on Sundays.

Every Wednesday, Shishu Park offers free entrance and rides for street children and destitute of the city.



Unlicensed rickshaws dumped at the old airport in Tejgaon will be moved out of the city soon.

SALUTING THE VETERANS

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor SMA Fayeaz Saturday distributed crests among the 23 professors retiring from 2003. Paying rich tributes to the outgoing teachers, the DU VC said, 'The grateful nation will always remember your contribution to the field of education and research'.

useful telephone numbers

COURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563989
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International Service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223

National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd.- 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222
Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751

TIPS
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site between 4pm and 10pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadughar- 9346359
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadughar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadughar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed
Sonargoan Jadugha

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulistan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoil	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahala
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biwa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgaon-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan