

Slapping by cops no offence?

Billal lost hearing as a cop slapped him 'for no reason'

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A young man lost hearing of his left ear after he was allegedly slapped by a driver of a police vehicle accusing him of not attempting to stop an escaping thief.

The incident took place at around 7:00 Monday morning when Dhamondi regular patrol police constables in a van gave chase to three alleged thieves, one of them identified as Sumon from Elephant Road in the city.

The victim, Mohammad Billal (30), had just come out of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) class IV employees' quarters where he resided. He paused at the main entrance of the quarters waiting for

some mode of transport to take him to DMCH for work.

The driver stopped the vehicle and scolded Billal for not attempting to stop the alleged thief making an escape through the gate. Before he could blink an eye, the driver, furious with Billal's unresponsiveness, slapped him across his ear damaging the eardrum.

"I was stunned by his action," Billal told this correspondent. "The driver came up to me shouting and slapped me right away. I lost balance and fell, grabbing my ear in pain, but the driver continued hitting me accusing me of being a member of the fleeing gang of thieves," he added.

As Billal lay on the pavement a few curious neighbours came forward

protesting the driver's hostility. At a stage Billal was pulled off the ground to be taken to the van parked beside, but neighbour's obstruction along with repeated appeals to other constables stopped the driver.

"I lost a sense of hearing and almost fell unconscious. The stinging, acute pain from the blow on my ear was all I could feel. Neighbours helped me to the hospital soon after the van left the scene," Billal narrated.

According to the doctor, the suddenness of the powerful blow damaged Billal's eardrum.

"I examined Billal and found his eardrum, the key component that gives one the ability to hear, completely ruptured," said Professor Abdullah Haroon, former

head of the Department of Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) at the DMCH.

The doctor explained that Billal's loss of hearing is a permanent damage.

Billal accompanied by some neighbours went to Dhamondi Police Station Monday night at around 10:00 to lodge a complaint. The on-duty police officer Mohsin Ul Haq refused to record a formal complaint.

However, Mohsin assured Billal and the neighbours that he would inquire into the matter and let them know by phone by 3:00pm the next day. But until 5:30pm, Mohsin had not called Billal or anyone who had accompanied him to the police station late Tuesday evening.

When contacted on Tuesday, Mohsin said, "The driver acted as per what police duty allows him to do. I do not think slapping a criminal is a criminal offence. Besides, public cannot file formal complaints against police on duty."

Asked if he had inquired into the matter, Mohsin replied, "I do not think there is any need for that."

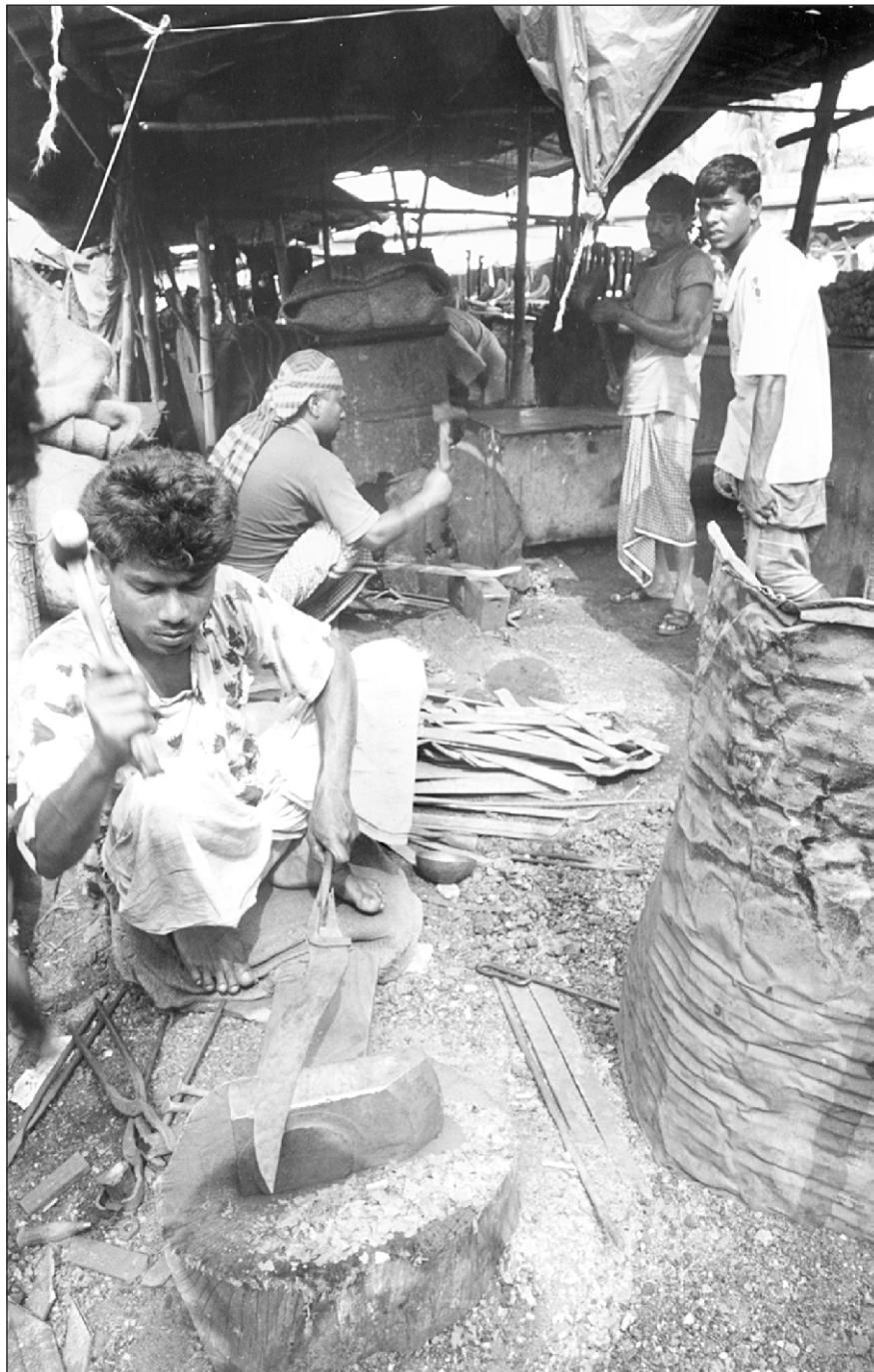
The officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhamondi Police Station Mohammad Zafullah, when contacted said he was unaware of the incident but assured this correspondent of his assistance. He would also investigate into the incident, he said.

AMAN HOSSAIN



Mohammad Billal: Victim

BUSY DAYS FOR BLACKSMITHS



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Idle days are over. With Eid-ul-Azha round the corner, the blacksmiths at Karwan Bazar are doing 'brisk business' with 'special orders' from the clients.

Working English for a living

More than a dozen people who never came across any school do the job of 'interpreters' or 'guides' at Bangabazar market

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

She neither attended school nor had formal English lessons. But observation, intent listening and intelligence enable her to earn her livelihood using language as the only tool.

Kali, a 15-year-old, works as a guide to tourists coming to Bangabazar in the city. She is not the only one. At least six women and seven men do the same job in this market area.

"I go market with me. I talking English. See cloth. If he like he buy. He does not like, not buy," said Kali in Pidgin English when asked about her job description. She said she learned English only by overhearing foreign tourists' conversations and observing their expressions. "Nobody else in my family can speak English," she proudly announces.

Kali and the other 'guides' said they find most tourists good-natured.

"Guides here have had no disputes with the visitors," said Mohammed Israfil, another guide in the same area. "Sometimes they avoid our assistance, but never refuse to pay us once they hire us," he added.

The shopkeepers believe the guides are of tremendous help for both them and the tourists. "It is cumbersome for them to move in this labyrinthine alleys without the help of guides," said Mohammed Faroque of Bhai Bhai Garments. Moreover, he said, sometimes the tourists come for a very short time and

want to buy specific goods. The guides help them locate the stores to get their requirements in the shortest possible time.

"We also appreciate work done by the guides as they bring in customers," Faroque said.

Almost all guides take this as their only means of earning. They have not done any other

job and no intention of switching either.

"As a child I used to stay in watch for foreigners' and locals' cars parked in front of New Market and gradually moved to this profession," said Mohammed Javed working as a guide for past 20 years.

Guiding tourists does not

remain confined to Banga Bazar. They take tourists to other markets like Eastern Plaza. "We take them to National Museum, Mirpur Zoo and even old Dhaka if they are interested," Javed said.

Guides do not have any specific rates to charge. "We take whatever they give us," said

Mohammed Israfil.

However, most guides said their earnings slackened after 9/11 attack in New York. Prior to that, each of them would earn Tk 15,000 to 20,000 a month.

"Now we hardly earn Tk 8,000 a month as numbers of tourists to the markets have decreased," Javed said.



Jahangir, a young 'interpreter' (centre), waits for 'clients' at Bangabazar

healthouting,taxicab&train timing

HEALTH

Hospitals

Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315

National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

Dental

Dental College -9002035

Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)

Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6

Rushmoni General Hospital- 8317819

Holy Family Hospital

83111731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

Shamrata Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69

Salimullah Medical Collage

Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital

(ICDDR,B)- 8811751-60

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,

7310061,7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-

8614040

Ambulances For

Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail)

9336611, Gandaria 7319808,

7318166,

Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED



TAXI CAB

Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 9344477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Cab I 01713282

Jatri 0171540074

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip - 8125285 and 8127611

KGN 8620011

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

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

TRAIN TIMING