

Bomb victims face uncertain future

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Asia Begum is not sure whether her husband, police constable Rafiqul Islam, will be able to lead a normal life in the future..

Rafiqul, who survived with serious injuries a ghastly bomb attack on the Chittagong Court Building premises on November 29, is languishing at the Casualty Unit of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) and awaiting with his wife an uncertain future.

The aftershocks of the bomb attacks have now gripped equally a few more families like Rafiqul and his wife Asia. Abdul Mazid and Shamsul Kabir are two of them.

Rafiq, Majid and Shamsul are three among 17 innocent people wounded seriously in the dead attack carried out by a suicidal bomber of an Islamist outfit at around 8.45am on the nightmarish day.

Soon after the gory incident, the wards of casualty on the



Rafiqul Islam of Special Branch undergoes treatment at the Chittagong Medical College and Hospital.

ground floor, the ENT on third floor and the orthopaedics and neurosurgery on the fourth floor of the hospital turned places of utter shock as the blast surviving 13 cops, including the three, and four other civilians were found groaning in pain with multiple injury marks all over their bodies.

Rafiqul Islam, 45, of Debidwar in Comilla, is a constable of City Special Branch. He had his legs, hands, chest and face lacerated by splinters of the bomb and find difficulty still to speak clearly. "I set out at 8.00am off my Nasirabad C & B Colony residence to Dampara Police Line

from where we went to the court premises and it could be around 8.45am the day when the bomb set off," Rafiqul recalled.

Rafiqul joined the police department in 1983 and transferred to city SB only three months ago. He has three sons.

"What is the guilt of my innocent husband?" Rafiqul's wife Asia asked this correspondent.

Asia said now the biggest concern for me and my sons is that of my husband's fate in future. "If he couldn't cured fully and returned to normal life then I fear the future of this family will be shattered," she moaned.

Asia and her son Sohail sought help from the journalists in this regard. "We believe if you guys draw attention of the government about my family then we might see a ray of hope."

Majid, a constable, was wounded badly in his legs while Shamsul, also a constable, got injured in right hand and head.

"Our biggest concern now is for future of our families. If we don't

recover from injuries then we are not sure what fate waits for us. Please pray for our quick and full recovery," the two fellow cops told The Daily Star while at the casualty ward.

Lutfar Rahman, 28, son of M Munjet Ali of Sujanagar in Pabna district, was shifted from Orthopaedics ward to Surgery ward after two days of the admission in CMCH. He was being treated for his badly scratched legs and hands caused by splinters.

Dr Matiar Rahman Khan, Resident Surgeon (general) of the CMCH, conducted an operation on Lutfar's stomach to stitch his damaged intestine. "Lutfar's injuries are grave because splinters are virtually spread different parts of the body," the physician said.

"The injured would survive but I've doubt whether they would be cured enough to lead a normal life in future," Dr Matiar said.

Hospital sources said other injured were sent to different hospitals in Dhaka.

ACUTE WATER CRISIS IN CITY



A woman collects water deposited in a hole after leaking out of a Wasa supply line at Jhatala to meet the acute crisis the city dwellers face throughout the year.

A cafeteria which students usually avoid

CU Arts Faculty cafeteria serves unhygienic and substandard foods

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

The students of Arts and Science faculties of Chittagong University (CU) usually avoid the Arts Faculty cafeteria as it allegedly serves unhygienic and substandard foods.

But the university authorities are indifferent to the problems of as many as 8,000 students of the two faculties. Besides, there is no cafeteria for the Science Faculty students.

In such a situation, most of the students are to attend practical classes without lunch and compelled to go hungry even for the whole day, sources said.

Rice -- mixed with sand, hair, feathers of poultry and stones -- is served at the Arts Faculty cafeteria, popularly known as "underground cafeteria".

It remains inundated by knee-

deep water to add to the sufferings of the students during the rainy season, sources said.

Students take fast foods from nearby tea stalls, popularly known as "jhupri", beside the arts building.

Chittagong University Central Students Union (Cucus) cafeteria serves rich foods -- pilau and meat -- of poor quality and small in quantity as well, students said.

Wahiduzzaman, a student of Science Faculty said, "It is very difficult to attend practical classes with empty stomach after lunch hour. But, I hardly dare to take the foods at the cafeteria as they will create different intestinal disorders in me."

"I have to go, sometimes almost the whole day, with whatever I take before rushing to the university in the morning," he said.

Shamsuddin Ahmed, a fourth



The dilapidated cafeteria at the Arts Faculty Building basement at Chittagong University.

The university authorities are indifferent to the problems of as many as 8,000 students of Arts and Science faculties. Students take fast foods from nearby tea stalls, popularly known as "jhupri"

year student of the same faculty, said "I stopped taking unhygienic foods and the impure drinking water from these cafeterias as they caused me to develop jaundice twice."

"Perhaps the students of the two faculties are victim of indifference of the university authorities, who allowed the cafeteria to run at the basement while those for Commerce and Social Science faculties were in the main buildings," said Mohammed Ilias, a student of the arts faculty.

AKM Moinuddin, another student of the arts faculty, said a drive against the unhygienic foods at the cafeteria is a must.

Ayub Ali, proprietor of the underground cafeteria, said he can not serve improved and quality foods as there is no subsidy from the university authorities.

"We requested the university

authorities repeatedly in vain to construct a wall to prevent rainwater and drain waters from seeping inside," Ayub said.

Proctor Dr Mohammed Al Amin said the cafeteria at the basement has been serving unhygienic and substandard food.

"We warned the owner against it and told him to serve the students with better and hygienic food," he added.

Dr Amin said the authorities, however, have a plan to set up new cafeteria at the Arts Faculty Building.

Meanwhile, several hundred students of Law Faculty and Microbiology Department are also facing the same problem as most of the cafeterias, hotels and university-authorised canteens are located far away from their respective faculties.

theweekthatwas

Meritorious students accorded reception

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman urged the students to acquire knowledge on information technology side by side with general education to keep pace with the present day of globalisation.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the Eid reunion and a reception organised by Chittagong Citizen's Club at Katalganj on Wednesday.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Oman Golam Akbar Khondakar and former president of the club Afsar Ahmad Chowdhury were special guests at the function to accord reception to the meritorious students of the locality.

Engineer Iqbal Karim, Dr Shahadat Hossain, Prof Jahangir Chowdhury, Manjurul Alam Manju and the club General Secretary Jasim Uddin Sikder spoke at the function with club President MA Salam in the chair.

A seminar on pre-birth and post-birth healthcare service for the newborns was held at Mohara City Corporation Urban Matrishadan (maternity) Hospital.

Chittagong City Corporation

(CCC) Health Department organised the seminar under second Urban Primary Health Care project on Wednesday.

CCC Health Director Prof Dr Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan and Chief Health Executive Dr Sarfaraz Khan addressed the seminar with local ward commissioner Nazim Uddin in the chair.

CMC teacher Dr Roushan Morshed and Paediatric Specialist Dr Bashana Muhury presented papers at the seminar. About 350 doctors, nurses and staffs of the hospital attended the seminar.

8th anniversary of CHT Accord observed

Reluctance to implement and violation of some vital provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) agreement by the government stood in the way of reaping the benefit of the peace accord for the last few years.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said this while he was addressing as the chief guest a discussion marking the eighth anniversary of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord on Friday.

Parbatya Shanti Cuktir Astam Bachhar Uddjan Committee organised the meeting at the Muslim Institute auditorium.

Mohiuddin said the accord will be fully implemented if Awami League can form the next government.

Eminent sociologist Dr Anupam

Sen, Jana Sanghati Samity leader Sudha Sadan Chakma, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) leader Shah Alam, daily Bhorer Kagoj bureau chief Omar Kaiser, Sarat Chakma, Sahadev Chakma and Dwipayani Khisha also spoke.

Udjan Committee Convenor Samiran Chakma presided over the meeting.

The meeting was followed by a cultural programme. Udichi, Charon Sangskritik Kendra, Giri Sur Shilpi Gosthi and artists from Rangamati

performed at the function.

Aids day observed

Speakers at a discussion on Thursday urged the non-government organisations to work jointly with the government for preventing (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) Aids.

World Aids Day 2005 Observation Committee, Chittagong organised the

discussion to mark the World Aids Day at the Shah Alam Bir Uttam auditorium of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH).

State Minister for Forest and Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury attended the meeting as the chief guest and Begum Rosy Kabir MP as the special guest.

The speakers said that with the increasing rate of HIV-affected sex workers and addicts, Bangladesh is at high risk of HIV/Aids.

They called for creating mass

awareness about HIV/Aids to check the disease in the country.

Committee President Dr Khurshid Zamil Chowdhury, also the acting civil surgeon of Chittagong, chaired the meeting. CMCH Community Medicine department chief Professor Dr Prabhat Chandra Barua was the main speaker.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong unit President Golam Mortuja Harun, CMC Principal Prof Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud, former Director of CMCH Brigadier General Md

Abedur Rahman, Director (Health), Chittagong Division Dr Md Nurul Alam, President of Internee Doctors Association of Cmch Dr Mahboob Abir, Vice President (VP) of Chittagong Medical College Student Union Masud Rana, Najma Begum of Ashar Alo and Md Abu Taher of Mary Stope's Clinic also spoke.

Speed braker on road demanded

A human chain was formed demanding speed braker and footpath at Shaheed Lane under Pahartali thana here on Friday.

Shaheed Lane Social Welfare Association organised the human chain.

Later, speakers at a rally said two people, including a local college student - Abu Hayat -- were killed in separate road accidents on the by-pass road at Shaheed Lane last month.

They said reckless driving of heavy vehicles along the road that links Shaheed Lane Colony with other colonies may cause serious road accident at any moment.

They demanded immediate construction of speed-braker with footpath to check road accidents at the by-pass road at Shaheed Lane.

Association Chairman Md Mostafa presided over the meeting. Victim Hayat's father Md Fazlul Hoque, Rauful Hossain Suja, Gazi Taher Uddin, Samajtantrik Sramik Front leader Mainuddin, Mahila Forum

organiser Naima Khaled Monika, college student Sajib and Mamun spoke at the rally.

Photo exhibition ends

A two-day Photography Exhibition portraying the lifestyle of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) vulnerable group, including rickshawpullers and truck drivers, ended here on Thursday.

Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) organised the exhibition of The Daily Star Photojournalist Zobaer Hossain Sikder on the occasion of the World Aids Day-2005.

President of Economic Association, Chittagong Chapter Professor Md Sikander Khan inaugurated the exhibition at the Chittagong Shilpakala Academy.

Director of Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex Dr Fazlul Hoque and Institute of Health Technology Principal Dr Sultanul Alam addressed the inaugural function with IDF Executive Director Zahirul Alam in the chair.

Speakers at the inaugural function highly appreciated the initiative by Zobaer to create awareness about the danger of Aids among the low-income people exposed due to unsafe intercourse.

Around 31 pictures - 18 of rickshawpullers and 13 of truck drivers, were displayed at the exhibition.



Bangladesh Economic Association, Chittagong chapter President Professor Mohammad Sikander Khan flanked by other guests visit the solo-photo exhibition of Photojournalist Zobaer Hossain Sikder at Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday, right. A photo, left, displayed in the exhibition. Integrated Development Foundation



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