

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BCL men chased Biswajit and dragged him out of this market's first floor before hacking him on this spot, now just another busy street in Old Dhaka.

don't understand why the procedures are endlessly lengthening," she says.

Advocate Akkas Sikder of Jhalkathi Judge Court, corroborating with Limon's lawyer Manik Acharya, explains why the process was prolonging, "Limon was held a minor in the arms case as he was under 18. The trial will actually begin as two separate ones, the second one for the seven accused listed in a separate charge-sheet. Limon's case was ready but the other one was not because the rest were absconding. So after the issuance of arrest warrants, the report stating failure to find them took one year to reach the court. A newspaper notice followed asking the fugitives that the trial would begin in absentia had they not attended the court; this took another six months."

"Then on the last three dates, both cases were finally ready but the judge was absent on the first date, Limon on the second. On the third, the public prosecutor requested more time for charge framing and it was deferred for the eighth time," adds Sikder.

Meanwhile, two years were lost from Limon's life.

"The Rab is probably trying to bargain with Limon and his mother by saying 'you withdraw your case, we will withdraw ours'. But Limon and his mother acted very bravely," says Hamida Hossain, chair of Ain O Salish Kendra, who had been outspoken against the injustice, along with other human rights activists, since Limon was shot.

She advises a way out, "I think this case is being prolonged unnecessarily. No doubt, Limon is being harmed in the process but this is also maligning the Rab's reputation. Things are stuck and definitely the government could have eased this deadlock." Hossain observes that the government or the home ministry – whoever administers the Rab must step in to resolve these cases.

Limon, however, seemed quite steadfast as he puts it clearly in a calm but firm voice, "The Rab shot me, I was crippled and now I have to repeatedly show up at the court and there's no end to it. I already requested addressing the honourable prime minister and the home minister that I want the false allegations withdrawn. It's alright that I lost a leg but I don't want further harassment."

Despite losing a limb, Limon says he barely lost anything. He went on to say, "I hope to carry on with my studies and prove that the attack hasn't quite defeated me. I earnestly seek the prime minister's intervention to end my plight. I think young people in the country are just like her children. I hope to share my plight with her if I could meet her."

Although Limon's family persisted in their cause, they remain unsure of when the moral arc will bend towards justice. Biswajit's family has probably learnt to let go thinking their son would not be back and thus averted engaging in vain discourse against the powers that be. The nation awaits justice for both. Nonetheless, their unfortunate tales compel us to consider all the oppressed and humbled who were denied justice and whether this is where and how things should really end. ■