

Dreams shattered under train wheels

CU student loses both legs
CU CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six year old Md Rabiul Alam had promised his parents that better days will come.

His parents believed that Rabiul will change their fate and give them a better life. But an accident in Sholoshahar Railway Station in Chittagong shattered those dreams.

A postgraduate student of sociology department at Chittagong University, Rabiul lost both his legs as a shuttle train ran over him yesterday.

While speaking about her hopes and aspirations about her son, Rabiul's mother Fatema Begum said he wanted to take all responsibilities of the family after completing his masters.

The six-member family which lives in Teknaf, survives by farming on others' land. "Rabiul managed his tuition fees and daily expenses through private tuitions in the city," his mother said.

"When all our dreams were about to come true, this tragedy happened...", the sobbing mother said.

The accident took place at 8:15am as Rabiul slipped and fell on the rail track. He was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital by locals.

CU Assistant Proctor Pranab Chowdhury said the operation was successful but doctors could not save his legs.

"He is out of danger now but it will take time to recover", he added.

His treatment will take a heavy toll on the family, Mohammed Hosen, a farmer from his village said.

The university authority said they will bear all his treatment expenses till his recovery.



Chittagong University student Rabiul Alam under treatment at CMCH. PHOTO: STAR

Draft act won't ensure safe roads

Urban planners tell press conference
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent urban planners yesterday said the government is ignoring the top priorities set in the Strategic Transport Plan for the capital and its draft road transport act would not guarantee safety on roads.

They made the observations at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) at its auditorium in the capital.

The draft road transport act will not be able to ensure road safety as it is biased towards transport owners and workers and it lacks necessary provisions to safeguard the interests of pedestrians and the general public, they said.

Moreover, the draft overlooked various key aspects of road safety including design of roads, supervision of vehicular fitness, training and counselling of transport workers including drivers.

The proposed punitive measures against violators are not only inadequate but also contradict many other laws in force, the speakers said.

Reading out a written statement, BIP General Secretary Adil Mohammed Khan said besides focusing on stern enforcement of the law, the government has to set its priority on proportionate allocation of budget for pedestrians in urban areas.

Although the STP for Dhaka recommended setting the topmost priority on pedestrians, the government allocates 80 percent of its transport budget to the metro rail that will serve only 15 percent of city dwellers, he observed.

Apparently, it is being done to serve quarters with vested interests, Adil alleged.

"Without consulting the general public or professionals, the government authorities by-passed the first five priorities recommended in the STP and chose the sixth one -- building a metro rail system," he said.

BIP Vice-President Akter Mahmud said even though road safety depends on planned urbanisation, there have been numerous irreversible urban transport mistakes such as building unplanned flyovers hindering the prospect of a safe mass transport system of buses in the capital.

Referring to mafia syndicates controlling the country's transport sector, BIP President AKM Abul Kalam said, "It's the duty of the government to free the transport sector of any mafia to bring order, discipline and safety."

BIP Joint Secretary Mohammad Mazharul Islam said unless the transport sector is freed from the mafia, no law would be of any use.

Bangla Academy to publish 3 books by Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy will soon publish three books authored by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, said this yesterday at a discussion on Bangabandhu's two already-published books -- "Karagarer Rojnamcha" and "Oshomapto Atmojiboni", marking 43rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu and National Mourning Day (August 15).

The academy organised the event at Bangladesh National Museum.

The first of the upcoming books is a travelogue on Bangabandhu's visit to China. Its title, "China Bhromon" was suggested by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Prof Shamsuzzaman said, adding that Bangabandhu originally wrote its script under the title "Noya China".

They will also publish an English version of the book, said Prof Khan.

The two other upcoming books are yet to be named. One of those is a memoir, while the third is on the historic Agartala Conspiracy, he added.

Hasina recalls Bangamata's immense contributions

88th birth anniversary of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa observed
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa had the unparalleled quality and capacity to give the right decision at any crisis and she helped Bangabandhu become the great leader.

She was addressing a programme marking the 88th birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka.

Hasina, the eldest of Bangabandhu and Bangamata's children, briefly narrated some incidents, including the historic March 7 Speech and the release of Bangabandhu and others in Agartala Conspiracy Case when

Bangamata took some bold decisions at the right time.

Hasina said, "The defeated forces that never wanted the liberation of the country, the hypocrites who betrayed the country, did not spare my mother on August 15."

She mentioned the suggestions of her mother to Bangabandhu before he had gone to deliver the historic March 7 address at Suhrawardy Udyan in 1971.

Hasina said Bangabandhu used to learn about the leaders and activists of the party through his wife when she met him in jail during the Pakistan period.

On the other hand, she said, Bangamata conveyed Bangabandhu's advice to party leaders and activists.

The prime minister said her mother sent a message to Bangabandhu not to accept the proposal of getting out of jail through parole in Agartala Conspiracy Case, and Bangabandhu rejected the parole proposal.

Bangabandhu wrote in details about his wife in his "Unfinished Memoir" from which many unknown aspects of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, including her mental strength, sacrifice, courage, wisdom and sufferings were revealed.

Fazilatunnesa was born at Tungipara village of the then Gopalganj sub-division.

She was assassinated along with Bangabandhu and most of her family members on August 15, 1975.

Repression of indigenous people continues

Claim speakers at seminar
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the government for its indifference in addressing incidences of repression of indigenous people, right activists yesterday once again demanded recognition of indigenous communities through reformation of the constitution to establish their rights to their lands and resources.

They were speaking at a seminar, titled "Displacement of Marginalised People, including Indigenous People, and their Human Rights", organised by International Indigenous Day Celebration Committee at the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

"If you are a good government, then why are we [indigenous people] going through so much distress?" Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, asked

while demanding formation of an indigenous rights protection act.

The committee is commemorating International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples today. The theme of the day this year is "Indigenous Peoples' Migration and Movement".

Sanjeeb said that after the partition in 1947, indigenous people have repeatedly been forced to migrate. "Even after 47 years of independence, political repression and torture on indigenous people continues," he said, adding that many indigenous communities have disappeared.

Professor at Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University, Robaet Ferdous said the displacement depends on the attitude of the government towards indigenous people.

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Zia Orphanage Trust Graft Case HC extends Khaleda's bail till Aug 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday extended till August 13 its earlier order that granted bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order following a petition moved by Khaleda's lawyer Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali seeking an extension of the bail.

Earlier on March 12, HC granted four months' bail to Khaleda in the case filed against her by the Anti-Corruption Commission. The four-month bail order expired on July 12.

Meanwhile, the same HC bench heard for the 13th day an appeal filed by Khaleda challenging the lawyer court verdict that convicted her to five years in prison in the case.

After concluding the proceeding, HC adjourned the hearing until 10:30am today.

Ensure emergency treatment of road crash victims at all hospitals

HC directs health ministry
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the health ministry to issue a gazette notification containing the guidelines for ensuring emergency medical services to road crash victims and protecting 'good samaritans'.

Modifying the guidelines formulated by the health ministry this year, the HC said the ministry will have to issue the gazette notification in two months after receiving the copy of the judgment.

The court also directed the government to ensure emergency medical services to road accident victims at all public and private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and medical centres across the country.

It said the guidelines will remain in force until a law is formulated to this effect.

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272 animals rescued from being smuggled

Birds, monkeys, lemurs handed over to safari park
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Some 272 animals, including those of four rare wildlife species, were handed over to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur on Tuesday night by Wildlife Crime Control Unit, after they were intercepted during a smuggling attempt.

The animals of rare species are 12 common Marmoset monkeys, two Lemurs, four Black-capped Conure birds, nine Grey Conures. Aside from those, eight pigeons, 152 Lovebirds, 30 African Grey Birds, 15 Macaws, and 37 Sun Conures were also retrieved.

Officer-in Charge of the park Md Rafiqul Islam said the shipment of animals was recovered in a raid from a Qatar Airways airplane that landed

at Shahjalal International Airport. These animals were being smuggled to another country via Bangladesh.

Dr. Nizam Uddin, Livestock Officer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park informed that these animals have come from Turkey, Brazil and countries of Africa.

He added that these animals are now undergoing quarantine period, and will be released to their habitats after 21 days. Nizam Uddin said the aviary is too small to accommodate the large number of birds, adding that they will do their best to keep them safe.

Anisur Rahman, wildlife supervisor of the safari park said the animals and birds have become weak, possibly due to long travel. They are being provided intensive care.



Marmoset monkeys kept in a cage at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park. PHOTO: STAR



After the Traffic Week began on Monday across the country, scores of motorcycles without valid papers ended up at a temporary dumping station in Mansurabad area of Chittagong city. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

Govt criticised for its handling

FROM PAGE 4
Moinul Alam, president of Chittagong Photography Society, said Shahidul Alam is among the few who represent Bangladesh before the world. "The international community respects people like him for their works. We want his immediate release."

In Sylhet city, journalists urged the government to find the attackers soon.

Taking part in a human chain, organised by Electronic Media Journalists Association (EMJA) in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar, they described the "attack on the journalists on duty as an attack on the freedom of the press".

Criticising the government, speakers said the administration does not seem to have the intention to find the attackers, and it raises questions about the government's intentions.

The speakers also demanded that the government ensure better treatment for the injured journalists and create a suitable environment for journalism.

EMJA President Ashraful Kabir, Sylhet Press Club President Ikramul Kabir, EMJA's founding president Al Azad, and Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association's Sylhet divisional president Abdul Batin Foysol, among others, spoke on the occasion.

In Barisal city, journalists formed a human chain in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall, and threatened to start a bigger protest if the miscreants who attacked journalists were not arrested within a week.

President of News Editors' Council Hasibul Islam, Secretary of Barisal Press Club SM Zakir Hossain, and President of Barisal Reporters Unity Nazrul Biswas, among others, spoke at the programme.

Smart NID cards for all voters by Dec-Jan: CEC

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said that all voters will get smart national identity cards by December this year or January next year.

He made the assurance while inaugurating the distribution of smart NID cards in Bhola through videoconferencing from Nirbachan Bhaban in the city's Argargaon area.

Four other election commissioners, the EC secretary, additional secretary and NID wing director general inaugurated the distribution of the smart cards in seven other districts through videoconferencing from Nirbachan Bhaban.

The EC will start distribution of smart cards in 19 other districts today.

This time the EC will distribute smart NID cards in sadar upazilas of 26 districts and Bhangra upazila of Faridpur.

The 26 districts include Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narsingdi, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh and Tangail.