

# Justice remains elusive for women

Say activists, lawyers at roundtable by Amrai Pari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two years have passed since a stalker murdered their beloved daughter Suraiya Akhter Risha but justice remains elusive in the cobweb of legal procedure.

Parents of Risha, 14, a student of Willes Little Flower School, broke down in tears at a roundtable yesterday when they spoke of their loss and the legal battle in a system that fails to deliver justice to many female victims in the country.

The dialogue on "Judicial system for women: Bangladesh perspective" was organised by Amrai Pari (We Can), an alliance to end violence against women, at The Daily Star Centre, with Rokeya Kabir, national committee mem-



Discussions at the roundtable at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

ber of Amrai Pari, in the chair.

Biased law, legal tangles, a lack of legal knowledge and sincerity of public prosecutors who represent

victims in court, improper recording of First Information Report, improper investigation and witnesses not having legal protection

are the factors contributing to the scenario, in which victims and their families are harassed even when they seek justice overcoming social barriers, speakers said.

On top of that, there is a lack of political will to ensure justice for victims.

The budget allocation for the judiciary system is only Tk 1,521 crore for fiscal 2018-19, which is insignificant compared to the total budget of more than Tk 4.6 lakh crore, said Judge Shawkat Hossain, of Paribesh Adalat (environment court).

Five hundred more courts, judges, infrastructure and logistics support are needed to expedite the trial proceedings, to ensure justice for all, he said. "For all these, money is required. The state does-

n't want to spend money. I sometimes doubt if the state considers it important to ensure its citizens' rights to justice."

Above all, corruption in the judiciary system becomes a barrier to justice as well, said Barrister Tapash Kanti Baul, prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal.

Many countries keep records of sexual offenders so that they can easily be identified, for example, in the job market, he said, adding that the government could do that as a deterrent measure.

In Risha's case, police submitted the charge sheet in November 2016. By June next year, 20 out of 26 witnesses gave their testimonies to the Additional Metropolitan Session Judge's Court. When the

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# Mugger 'welfare' fund!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As strange as the headline may sound, it is in fact, for real.

A group of muggers apparently deposit a part of their "earnings" in a fund -- to use the money for fighting legal battles to free their arrested fellows or for treating those who got injured by mob beating during a mugging incident.

The story came to light yesterday after detectives arrested eight members of a gang from Jatrabari and New Market on Friday night.

"Detectives seized Tk 8 lakh of the fund money from the arrested's possession. It was collected by mugging," said Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of the detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at DMP media centre in Dhaka. Baten said the gang used to fetch Tk 3 lakh to 5 lakh per month by mugging people.

They used to deposit some of the looted money for the fund and share the rest among themselves.

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# Rab providing traffic updates on Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from ensuring security for Eid holidaymakers, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has also taken initiatives to publish traffic updates on their official Facebook page in a bid to make journeys more convenient.

Rapid Action Battalion - Rab Online Media Cell, the official Facebook page for Rab headquarters, yesterday started updating on traffic flow of railways, waterways and highways.

The elite force will post an update every four hours to keep the holidaymakers updated, Benazir Ahmed, director general of Rab, said at a press briefing at Rab Media Centre in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

In addition, 14 Rab battalions will also publish traffic updates on the highways of their respective zones every four hours, Benazir added.

## SECURITY MEASURES FOR EID

A two-week long security plan that started from August 13, has been implemented ahead of Eid, said the Rab chief.

While talking to reporters, he said a total of 245 patrol teams have been deployed countrywide, 56 striking force teams are ready to tackle any untoward situation and 20 temporary camps have been established in different exit points around Dhaka and other major areas such as Abdullahpur, Joydebpur, Konabari, Chandra, Meghna and Gomi bridge, Paturia, Daulatdia, Mawa and

Kathalbaria.

At Mawa Ferry ghat, due to a navigability problem, cattle traders are bringing in sacrificial animals on small trucks and until Friday evening, 6,500 cattle-laden trucks had entered Dhaka, said the Rab DG.

At Paturia and Daulatdia ferry ghat, cattle-laden trucks are causing some congestion but the passenger bus movement is normal, he said, adding there is also pressure at Sadarghat terminal, but the situation is normal.

The Rab DG is anticipating a rush on highways when workers of the readymade garment factories will go on Eid holidays. "We have also taken initiatives to cope with the traffic flow", he said.

Around 68 trains are operating on different routes across the country and the good news is almost all the trains left terminals in due time, except for some, which were delayed by half an hour, he said.

"We have also taken measures to ensure security in cattle markets. Around 37 muggers and dope gang members have been arrested so far to avoid any disruption of law and order," Benazir said.

The elite force has also taken stringent security measures to ensure safety during Eid jamaat. Two of the largest Eid congregations will be held at Sholakia Eidgah Maidan in Kishoreganj and Gore-e-Shahid Boro Math in Dinajpur. Rab has already taken all steps to ensure a full-proof security, he said.

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# Call to bring back fugitive killers of Bangabandhu

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for effective steps to bring back the fugitive killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The discussion at Bangabandhu Museum in Dhaka was arranged by Awami League's International Affairs Subcommittee with around 50 diplomats from different missions. AL Presidium Member Lt Col (retd) Muhammad Faruq Khan, AL lawmaker Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh and AL International Affairs Secretary Dr Shammi Ahmed addressed the discussion.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq said, "A draconian law was put in place to protect the killers of the architect of our independence. Ziaur Rahman did not scrap the law and that remained in effect until AL came to power in 1996."


State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahrar Alam, Chief Whip ASM Feroz, AL Joint General Secretary and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee of Foreign Affairs Dr Dipu Moni were present at the discussion moderated by International Affairs Subcommittee member Barrister Shah Ali Farhad.



Participants at a roundtable discussion on "Proposed Digital Security Law: Further Thoughts" at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. From left, legal economist SI Siddiqui, journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Masud Ahmed of PEN International Bangladesh, lawmaker Kazi Rosy, Jatiya Press Club President Shafiqur Rahman, and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

PHOTO: STAR

## CONDOLENCE



**M Ayubur Rahman**  
Former Cabinet Secretary  
(1937-2018)

We deeply mourn the sad demise of **M Ayubur Rahman**, former Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of Janata Bank who breathed his last on the night of 15 August, 2018 (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun). He was 81 at the time of his death. He left behind his wife, 2 sons and grand children.

On behalf of Munshi family we pray for the salvation of his departed soul. May Allah give strength to his bereaved family to bear this great loss.

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## A fatal nap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Momin was sleeping under a truck. The 25-year-old, who was the helper of Nazmul Hossain, got tired as he had to toil in assisting the trucker overnight.

Yesterday morning, Momin had breakfast with the driver. Later, he informed Nazmul that he was going outside to take a nap.

The driver, however, did not know where Momin was sleeping.

The maize-laden truck was parked in front of Sujala Feed Mill in Chakpara area of Shreepur upazila in Gazipur. The crop was supposed to be handed over to the mill authorities.

Two hours later, another truck rushed to the spot. As Nazmul needed to move his vehicle, he started calling Momin, but to no avail.

Police and witnesses said with no response to his calls, Nazmul, 23, started the truck and eventually crushed his helper.

Sreepur Police Station Sub-Inspector Monzurul Islam said they arrested trucker Nazmul Hossain.

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