



# 'Our order must be implemented'

HC tells Green Line to pay Russel Tk 45 lakh in monthly instalments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday warned Green Line Paribahan, saying the court will see how the government facilitates the transport company if it resorts to unscrupulous means to violate the order over compensating Russel Sarker, who lost his leg after one of its buses ran him over in April last year.

"You can enforce strike or hartal; whatever you wish. But, our order must be implemented. The compensation will have to be paid in instalments to him [Russel]. We will have to take other measures if our order is violated," the court said.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader told this to Green Line's lawyer Advocate Md Ozi Ullah, while hearing a writ petition filed in this regard.

The court told the lawyer, "You [Green Line] have shown enough impertinence... while we have showed a lot of patience. We cannot change our order, as Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld it."

The company's behaviour towards

Russel is inhuman, the HC bench said.

"Green Line runs business of crores of taka. The company has not become bankrupt. It could have offered Russel a job as he is poor and a driver by profession," the court said.

After the hearing, the HC bench ordered the transport company to pay Tk 5 lakh to Russel Sarker in monthly instalments to clear the remaining Tk 45 lakh compensation.

It will have to pay Tk 5 lakh by the seventh day of every month, and submit a report to the court by the 15th of the month after compliance, the court said.

At the beginning of the hearing, Advocate Ozi Ullah prayed to the court to reduce the amount of Tk 50 lakh compensation and sought the court's order to pay Russel through instalments.

He, however, did not specify any amount.

Afterwards, Ozi Ullah told The Daily Star that the company has already paid Tk 5 lakh to Russel. Now it has to pay Tk 45 lakh more to Russel through monthly instalments as per the court order.

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## Wide use of eco-friendly bricks imperative

Environmentalists recommend at national convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a convention yesterday recommended reducing use of traditional burnt clay bricks as well as those that need excessive soil.

They made the recommendations in their 11-point declaration at a national convention on "Use of Eco-friendly Alternative Bricks for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh" held at the Seminar Hall of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

Oxfam in collaboration with Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) and Jagarani Chakra Foundation (JCF) organised the event. The convention was attended by environmentalists, dignitaries

and industry experts from all over Bangladesh.

Other recommendations made at the programme include identifying alternatives to burnt clay bricks and reducing its use through long-term planning, rational pricing done by regulatory bodies concerned, proper implementation of the directives from Prime Minister's Office, implementation of Brick Making and Brickfield Establishment (control) Amendment Act, finalising and approval of all relevant laws including Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) promptly; incorporating sections on use of alternatives to burnt clay bricks in BNBC and building construction rules.

Chief Executive of Bela Syeda Rizwana Hasan read out the

declaration at the convention while Director General of Department of Environment AKM Rafique Ahammed spoke as chief guest.

Making burnt clay bricks requires a huge amount of topsoil as well as fuel for burning it. Studies reveal that every year Bangladesh loses one percent of agricultural land of which 17.4 percent is used for manufacturing bricks -- amounting to 18,000 hectares (180 square kilometres), said Mohammad Abu Sadeque, former director of HBRI.

The loss of such vast areas of land has an explicit negative effect on food security. Moreover, about 8 million tonnes of coal and wood are being used for baking 25 billion bricks per year causing emission of about 15

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Visitors through the Jatiya Brikha Mela (National Tree Fair) at the Sher-e-Banglanagar DITF field. The fair, part of national tree plantation campaign, opened on June 20.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Form House committee on 'ghost cases': Harun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid from Chapainawabganj-3 yesterday in parliament demanded that the Speaker forms a parliamentary committee over "ghost" cases.

"The home minister said there is nothing called ghost cases... I request the Speaker to form a parliamentary committee on it," Harun said participating in the general discussion on the proposed national budget for 2019-20 fiscal.

The BNP lawmaker claimed at least 9,000 cases were filed against BNP leaders and activists in the last 10 years, most of which are false. Some 25 lakh BNP leaders and activists were accused in the cases.

He said BNP men were picked up from their houses and accused in cases on charges of making bombs.

He said BNP secretary general is facing charges in 84 cases, while 84-year old former Speaker Jamir

Uddin Sircar, senior BNP leaders Khandkar Mahub Hossain and Moudud Ahmed are facing charges of making bombs and involvement in sabotage.

The BNP lawmaker claimed some 1,200 people became victims of enforced disappearance in the last 10 years of this government.

"I don't know whether I will be able to return home after my speech in the parliament. I don't know if I will face the fates of Ilias Ali or Salauddin Ahmed -- like they were picked up by groups identifying as law enforcement agencies," Harun said.

"We'll have to come out from this national crisis," he added.

JSD MP THREATENS TO RESIGN Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal executive president Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal threatened of resigning from parliament, if construction

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## DHAKA TODAY

### THEATRE

Khona  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha  
Time: 7:30pm

### ACADEMIC SESSION

Graduate & Undergraduate University Search Process  
Venue: American Center, Pragati Sharani Road  
Time: 3pm

### CONCERT

Korean Pop Music  
Venue: Daffodil International University, Sobhanbag  
Time: 3:30pm

### DISCUSSION

Law, Rules & Rights of People Living in Forest  
Organiser: Association for Land

Reform and Development  
Venue: Jatiya Press Club  
Time: 11am

### TALK

Responsibilities to Prevent Abuse  
Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Segun Bagicha  
Time: 10:30 am

### WORKSHOP

Classical & Creative Dance Workshop  
Venue: Centre for Advance Nurturing & Visual Art Studies, Pallabi  
Time: 4pm

### FILM

Chernobyl  
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Cine Society  
Venue: Jahangirnagar University  
Time: 7pm

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF STREET CHILDREN

## An arduous legal journey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Street children are the most vulnerable to sexual exploitation but their legal journey for justice is in most cases distressing because of the lack of social and financial support and the lengthy criminal justice system, according to a report.

Children from across the country come to Dhaka and end up on the streets due to poverty and abuse. Many of them are sexually exploited in exchange for food, shelter, protection and money.

"Though the government has taken necessary legal and institutional measures to combat commercial sexual exploitation, children face multiple challenges in accessing justice," according to the report titled "Access to justice of children victim of commercial sexual exploitation in Bangladesh".

The report was launched yesterday at a programme organised by Terre des Hommes Netherlands at Brac Centre Inn with support from the Delegation of the

European Union in Dhaka.

The report was prepared under "Combating commercial sexual exploitation of children" project implemented by Terre des Hommes Netherlands in collaboration with SEEP in Dhaka, SSS in Tangail and Breaking the Silence in Dhaka. It was aimed at rescuing 1,000 children from commercial sexual exploitation from Kandapara brothel in Tangail, and the capital's Mirpur.

The programme also included a closing workshop under the project, committed to stopping sexual exploitation and trafficking of children in the country.

During a baseline survey conducted in 2016, 75 percent of girl children living on the streets of Dhaka were found to be at risk of sexual exploitation. Five percent of girl children who took up sex work as profession experienced sex for the first time when they were only 10 years old, while 45 percent were between 11 and 14 years old, and 35 percent were 15-17. Only 15 percent

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## Writ petition seeks ban on unnecessary C-sections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to ban unnecessary caesarean section for delivering babies at hospitals and clinics.

Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman submitted the petition praying to the HC to issue a rule asking the government to explain why its inaction to stop unnecessary C-section of pregnant mothers should not be declared illegal.

Citing newspaper reports, he said 77 percent of C-sections conducted

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## AL to engage youth in politics

Party leaders say

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League leaders at a discussion yesterday said the party has set a target to utilise the youth's potential by engaging them in political practice for national progress.

Pointing to initiatives taken under leadership of Sheikh Hasina, they said youth participation is key to materialising its vision of a prosperous Bangladesh.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni, State Minister for ICT Zunaïd Ahmed Palak and the party's female wing vice president Begum Wasika Ayesha Khan addressed the event.

AL's research wing, Centre for Research and Information (CRI) organised the event titled "Awami League at 70: The youth's thoughts" at Krishibid Institution in Khamarbari.

## Most RMG workers harassed in public transports: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of female garment workers in the country face various types of sexual and psychological harassments in their everyday life -- particularly in public transports, finds a study.

Despite being severely distressed, most of them do not protest the incidents fearing social stigma and losing their jobs instead of getting a solution, the study says.

Two non-government organisations -- Nagorik Uddyog and Bangladesh Labour Rights Forum -- conducted the study between April and June 2018, by surveying 173 garment workers -- mostly women -- from different areas of Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur.

The findings were unveiled at a seminar at Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

The survey found about 77 percent of the garment workers are sexually harassed in public transports. Nearly half of them go through unwanted physical contact almost on a daily basis.

Male passengers and transport operators are responsible for such offences the most, said the study.

Besides, some 39 percent of the workers

told researchers they do not feel safe at their workplaces, mostly because of fearing to be harassed sexually by male officials and colleagues, according to the findings.

Majority of them reported psychological harassment -- like use of swear words and vulgar comments. A large segment of them alleged sexual harassment and a few reported physical torture -- like slapping and pushing.

The study also found that female workers are harassed by their landlords and shopkeepers in their localities as well.

Monjurul Islam, one of the researchers, said negative mindset of the male counterparts towards the workers, culture of impunity and lack of seriousness of the factory authorities and the government are the major reasons behind the current situation.

"Many men in our society still think poorly of garment workers, although they have a significant contribution to our economy," Monjurul, a coordinator of Nagorik Uddyog, told this newspaper.

"Besides, incidents of harassment have become normal over the years, as there is no remedy or punishment for those," he added.

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Police had to disperse a group of people who formed human chains in front of Jatiya Press Club over various demands yesterday morning. As the road has already been narrowed down due to the ongoing metro rail project, the events created a gridlock in the area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS