

PERPETRATORS OF HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK

Families left in ruins

RAFIUL ISLAM

Badiuzzaman became landless nearly 15 years ago, when all his 20 bighas of arable land in Bogura's Dhunat upazila eroded into mighty Jamuna.

The devastation forced him to work as a day labourer to bear family expenses, including education of his three sons. After his first child dropped out and another was physically challenged, Badiuzzaman pinned his hopes on his youngest son, Shafiqul Islam Uzzal.

"I had picked up every odd job to bear his educational expenses, with the hope that he would someday take the family's responsibility. But my son became a killer and murdered innocent people."

Uzzal not only shattered his dreams, but put the entire family in disarray. He was one of the five youths who carried out the country's deadliest militant attack at Holey Artisan Café in Gulshan on July 1, 2016, an incident that shook the nation to its core.

"I had picked up every odd job to bear his educational expenses, with the hope that he would someday take the family's responsibility. But my son became a killer and murdered innocent people. He destroyed everything," said a desolate Badiuzzaman (65).

"I feel ashamed to talk to my neighbours because of him," he said, adding that his family is on the verge of ruins.

Like Badiuzzaman, family members of at least eight out of 21 suspected militants involved in the café attack shared similar ordeals they have been enduring after their loved ones turned out to be dreaded killers.

Some of them are now struggling to make ends meet after losing their breadwinners, while some are seeing a bleak future as their "last resort of hope" are either in jail or got killed during anti-militancy drives by law enforcers after the attack.

However, they all have one unpleasant experience in common: social isolation.

Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the militants not only destroyed themselves but also made their family members victims.

"The family members of the militants were humiliated in their communities... Relatives of the many of them have turned away. In some cases, people cut business ties with their families," he told The Daily Star.

The CTC chief said they have started working closely with those family members, as they found them innocent during investigation.

The families also helped police sincerely, he added.

After the death of her husband, 55-year-old Rokeya Akhter from Bogura solaced herself when her only son Rakibul Hasan Regan got GPA-5 in SSC in 2013. Against all odds, she was financing his education.

Regan also got GPA-5 in HSC exam.

Rokeya hoped her son would be a doctor and bring happiness to her family. But all her efforts failed when Regan was pulled into militancy and left home in July 2015, just a year before the deadly terror attack.

"My world crumbled before my eyes after Regan was arrested in the case.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

MJF rally in capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) will hold a rally in the capital today, marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

People of all ages from different institutions will join the rally at Central Shaheed Minar at 3pm, said a press release from the organisation.

The rally will be held on the theme "We are against rape of children and women and all forms of sexual assault," it added.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. The UN observes the day on November 25 to raise awareness and trigger action to end this global scourge.

Will provide appointment letters to workers

Transport owners inform JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association yesterday informed a parliamentary body that they will provide appointment letters to transport workers from now on, as part of the effort to restore order on the roads.

Top leaders of Road Transport Owners Association came up with the announcement at the meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of the association, told The Daily Star that they do not have any objection to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Share trips, pay less

UberPOOL launches in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uber, the world's largest on-demand ridesharing company, yesterday launched a new service -- UberPOOL-- in Dhaka to mark three years of its operation in Bangladesh.

UberPOOL is a new ridesharing option that allows riders to share, or "pool" ride with others headed in the same direction, and split the cost of the trip.

Ratul Ghosh, head of east India and Bangladesh at Uber, made the announcement at a press briefing in a city hotel.

He said trip fare on UberPOOL can be up to 40 percent lower than the UberX fare for the same distance. "It means cheaper rides for passengers, longer, more-rewarding trips for drivers, and less congestion for cities over time," he said.

Once a rider made request through the app, he or she will get matched with the most compatible co-riders and driver nearby and the best spot for pickup in under two minutes.

When the ride details are finalised, the app gives the person walking directions and the ETA (expected time of arrival) for pick up so the rider knows when and where to meet the driver.

As one nears the end of the trip, the Uber app will choose a drop off spot, notify, and provide walking directions to the final destination.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Supply drinkable water to four Patiya villages: HC to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a rare move, the High Court yesterday ordered the government to arrange supply of potable and household water for four villages -- Charkana, Hulaine, Panchuria and Habilashdweep -- in Patiya upazila of Chattogram.

Around 30,000 residents of these four villages are not getting safe water, as around 350 tube-wells in the areas have allegedly gone out of order due to withdrawal of ground water by eight factories.

Yesterday, the HC said the authorities concerned of the government will continue supply of potable and household water to the villagers of Charkana, Hulaine, Panchuria and Habilashdweep villages until the government decides whether the villages will be declared water-stressed area.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PHOTO OF THE DAY

PRABIR DAS



SAME AS BEFORE...... a bus stops in the middle of a road to pick up passengers amid traffic while the latter pay no heed to the risks involved. Though put into effect, the new road transport act seems to have little effect as such haphazard pick-up and drop-off, jaywalking and commuters' reluctance to follow traffic rules continue. This photo was taken recently on Airport Road.



Shaheed Dr Milton Day today

Bss, Dhaka

Shaheed Dr Milton Day will be observed across the country today, commemorating the 29th martyrdom anniversary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milton, who was joint secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

Milton, a teacher of Dhaka Medical College, was killed by thugs of the then authoritarian ruler HM Ershad near TSC of Dhaka University, at the height of the anti-autocracy movement on this day in 1990.

The sacrifice of Dr Milton transformed the movement into a mass uprising that prompted the fall of the regime, paving way for restoration of democracy.

On the eve of the day, President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages recalling the sacrifice of Dr Milton.

Political parties, socio-cultural organisations and professional groups have chalked out programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include offering special prayers, discussions, and placing wreaths at the grave of Dr Milton on DMC campus and at Milton Smriti Chattar near TSC.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

Hard to eradicate but can be prevented, speakers say



Participants at the roundtable yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour rights activists at a roundtable yesterday called for a social movement against sexual harassment and assault on women, and urged men to be at its frontline.

They also said women should be aware of their rights and urged the government to formulate strict law for prevention of all forms of sexual harassment at workplace and educational institutions.

Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF), a non-government organisation working on labour rights, organised the discussion on the necessity of law to prevent sexual harassment. The event was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Speaking at the event, BLF Chairman Abdus Salam Khan said sexual harassment is rampant around the world, and Bangladesh is no exception.

"It is hard to eradicate violence against women from a patriarchal society like ours, but it can be prevented. To do so, women have to be aware while men should change their mindset," he said.

"Colonial attitude like master-servant

relationship still remains in our society, which has to change immediately," added Salam, a noted labour rights activist.

Urging the government to formulate a strict act in this regard, he said sexual harassment at workplace cannot be prevented if the authority does not come forward.

Lawmaker Shirin Akhter said women face harassment at every stage of their lives -- from home to streets to workplace -- which needs to stop.

Formulation of the law will not be enough unless it is implemented properly. Besides, a social movement is also needed to resist the widespread harassment, and men should be in the frontline of the movement, she added.

Mostafizur Rahman, joint inspector general of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments; ZM Kamrul Anam, secretary general of BLF; Kelly Fay Rodriguez, deputy country director of Solidarity Center Bangladesh; and Farhtheeba Khan, a team leader of SNV Netherlands in Bangladesh, also spoke at the programme, among others.

প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা

অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

ট্যাক্স কার্ড ও সম্মাননা প্রদান অনুষ্ঠান

প্রধান অতিথি : আ হু ম মুক্তফা কামাল, এফসিএ, এমপি

অর্থমন্ত্রী গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রফেসর ডাঃ একেএম ফজলুল হক,

বাংলাদেশ ও উপমহাদেশের পাইওনিয়ার কলোরেকটাল সার্জন ও প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ) কলোরেকটাল সার্জারী বিভাগ বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক ২০১৮-২০১৯ কর বর্ষে ডাক্তার শ্রেনীতে সমগ্র বাংলাদেশে ১ম সর্বোচ্চ করদাতা নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন।

উক্তব্য প্রফেসর ডাঃ হক পরশুর জিন বছর ১ম সর্বোচ্চ করদাতার খেতাব অর্জন করেন।

গত ১৪ নভেম্বর ২০১৯, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী জনাব আ হু মুক্তফা কামাল, এফসিএ, এমপি প্রফেসর ডাঃ হককে ট্যাক্স কার্ড সম্মাননা পর- ২০১৯ ও ক্রেস্ট প্রদান করেন।

উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে অন্যদের মধ্যে আরও উপস্থিত ছিলেন হাজারি কমিটির চেয়ারম্যান, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় জনাব আবুল হাসান মাহমুদ আলি এমপি, প্রধানমন্ত্রীর অর্থনৈতিক বিষয়ক উপদেষ্টা ড. মসিউর রহমান এবং জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব মোশাররফ হোসেন ভূঁইয়া।

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