

'Rehabilitation, not punishment'

Speakers urge for separate justice system for children

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish separate children's desk in each police station
- At least one juvenile court required in each district, metropolitan area
- Family conferences to curb juvenile delinquency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding a separate justice system for children, speakers at a roundtable yesterday highlighted that punishment should not be the main purpose of juvenile justice; rather measures should be taken so they do not get involved in any criminal activity.

They also expressed grave concern over the low capacity and overcrowded juvenile correction centres.

The roundtable titled "Juvenile Justice System: Challenges and Way Forward" was organised by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) at the Liberation War Museum at the capital's Agargaon, as part of observing 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Speakers also noted the lack of awareness about the Children Act 2013 among law enforcement agencies, human rights activists and development agencies.

According to the act, it is necessary to establish a separate children's desk in each police station, pointed out BNWLA president Salma Ali,

Under the Juvenile Justice Act 1974, two juvenile courts

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The deep depression over the west-central part of Bay of Bengal, which is intensifying into cyclonic storm "Jawad", left Dhaka's skies overcast throughout yesterday. Not to be seen for most of the day, the sun only peeked for a couple of minutes around noon, before taking time off again. This photo was taken from DSCC Nagar Bhaban area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SM Ali's 93rd birth anniversary



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 93rd birth anniversary of Syed Mohammad Ali, founder editor-publisher of The Daily Star and a luminary in journalism of Bangladesh.

SM Ali made his way up from a cub reporter to one of the country's most brilliant editors in a career spanning 44 years. He also led the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) as its chairman.

Educated in Kolkata, Dhaka and London, he was one of the few Asian journalists who stood out in regional journalism.

Ali was born in a well-

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VALIANT TILL THE END

Traffic constable dies trying to prevent collision on Ctg rail track; 2 others including HSC examinee killed as train hits bus, auto-rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As the train rushed in, the rail gate of Chattogram city's Jhautola crossing still remained open. Unaware of what was about to unfold, several vehicles moved on to or very close to the rail track.

Sensing imminent danger, on-duty traffic police Monirul Hossain, around 50 years of age, rushed to the spot and tried to stop the vehicles, according to witnesses.

However, the train soon arrived and hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and bus. The force of the collision led the auto-rickshaw to fall upon Monirul, leaving him critically injured.

He was later declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), confirmed Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (traffic), north zone.



Monirul



Sadraj

The three-way collision took place at the crossing yesterday morning, which also left two others killed. They were identified as Syed Bahauddin Ahmed (30), an engineer by profession, and HSC examinee Sadraj Uddin Shahin (18).

They were also taken to and declared dead at CMCH.

Eight others were injured in the collision, police confirmed. They are currently under treatment there.



Monirul's family members break down in tears at CMCH in the aftermath of the tragic accident.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Hearing news of the accident, Monirul's daughters Mahmuda Ferdous Shima and Bibi Fatema Sumona rushed to the hospital around 1:00pm.

His fellows from the police were seen consoling the bereaved family.

GATEMAN'S 'NEGLIGENCE' TURNS FATAL

Eyewitness police sergeant Mahmudul Hasan Juwel, who was also at the spot during the incident, told reporters, "We were controlling the traffic rush on the road at the time. Constable Monirul was on duty on the southern side of the street when he saw there was no barrier before the railway crossing on his side and tried to intervene."

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulshi Police Station Shahinuzzaman told The Daily Star, "After being hit by the train, the auto-rickshaw crushed Monirul,

leaving him critically injured. He was rescued along with the other injured by police and rushed to CMCH."

Shailla Begum, who saw the accident from only a few yards away, put the blame on gateman Ashraf Alangair Bhuiyan, saying, "It was a terrifying scene. The accident occurred due to the gateman's mistake."

A frequent commuter of the area, she alleged that the gateman in question usually had children of the area operate the gate for him.

Meanwhile, police are yet to arrest the gateman over negligence. "Ashrafal has been on the run since the accident," said OC Nazim Uddin of Chattogram Railway Police Station.

Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (traffic),

north zone, said, "On-duty traffic personnel Monirul went to close the gate after he found it open, but was killed as the auto-rickshaw flew towards him after being hit by the train."

OC Nazim Uddin said police were filing a case in connection with the accident. To investigate, police also formed a three-member committee.

"The committee will be headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Abdul Faful. It has been asked to submit a report within three working days," said Md Hasan Chowdhury, superintendent of police of Chattogram Railway.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway has also formed their own probe committee to investigate the incident, according to sources.

'MONIRUL'S SINCERITY SHOWED EVEN IN DEATH'

Meanwhile, grief has set in over the family



The mangled CNG-run auto-rickshaw after the incident.

members of the deceased, who still can't contain the shock of the sudden demise of their loved ones.

When this correspondent reached out to the family in the aftermath of the accident, he found Monirul's elder daughter Shima waiting for her father.

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Ctg bus owners agree to meet students' demand

Decide to accept half bus fares in principle; to hold press brief today

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Transport owners in Chattogram city have accepted the demand of introducing half bus fares for students in principle.

Sources from within the owners' associations said a declaration in this regard will come through a press conference today.

However, they also said the announcement would come with two demands from their side, one addressing the government and another addressing students.

"The government has raised our taxes four times this year. We accept the demand of students regarding half fare, but we will place a demand before the government to reduce our taxes," said Belayet Hossain, general secretary of Chattogram Metro Paribahan Malik Group.

"In addition, we urge students to be in their school and college uniforms, and carry identity cards while boarding our buses when asking for half fares," he said.

Belayet said a series of meetings were held among different transport owners associations in Chattogram over the last week to come to this decision.

"On Friday and Saturday, we sat together and decided to accept the demands on principle," he said. "We will announce it on Sunday (today) in a press conference at Chattogram Press Club."

Contacted, Tarun Dasgupta, president of City Service Owners' Association in Chattogram, said although most of the buses plying different city routes have very low income per day, they still accept the demands for the sake of greater interest.

"The students are our future. Our children are also students, and so we don't want to cause them distress," he said. "This is why we have decided to accept their demand. But at the same time, we would urge the government to reduce the increase in taxes imposed on public transport this year."

General students as well as different students' organisations have been demonstrating in the port city, demanding the government to introduce half public

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No water scarcity next dry season

Assures Dhaka Wasa MD
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Dhaka will not face any scarcity of drinking water during the next dry season, other than exceptions that could arise due to technical glitches, said Taqsem Khan, managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), yesterday.

Last year, the city dwellers in several areas complained of facing water scarcity as they did not get drinking water from Wasa supply lines.

"We have the capacity to generate 270 to 280 crore litres of water daily, against the demand for 210 to 265 crore litres," he said at a views-exchange meeting at Wasa's conference room in the capital.

Taqsem said they have a plan to increase dependency on surface water to 70 percent.

They will be able to achieve the target when installation of two water treatment plants in Gandhabpur and Sayedabad is completed.

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After 2 children, father dies from burn injuries



PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

After siblings Nahar Khan (3) and Md Yasin Khan (6), their father Md Kausar Khan (42) died yesterday in the aftermath of the fire that originated at a house in Munshiganj Sadar's Mukhtarpur area on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the family's matriarch Shanta Begum (38) is also being treated for sustaining 48 percent burns at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in the capital, confirmed its resident surgeon SM Ayub Hossain.

Under treatment at the same hospital, Kausar breathed his last around 7:45am. Hailing from Kishoreganj Sadar, he was working as a river transport engineer in a cement factory of Mukhtarpur in Munshiganj.

The four of them lived in a room on the first floor of a four-storey building, where the fire broke out around 4:15am on Thursday.

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These 75-year-old train wheels were recently declared out-of-use by the railway authorities. After being sold via tender, around 108 of them are now being cut and prepared before being sent to re-rolling mills. This photo was taken recently from Khulna city's Jora Gate area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN