

CUSTODIAL DEATH OF JONNY IN 2014

'We're still deprived of justice'

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Family members of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, who was brutally tortured to death in police custody in 2014, are yet to get final justice from the High Court, due to the lengthy legal tangles in disposing of related appeals.

Jonny's family members are suffering, emotionally and financially, but are yet to get any compensation, although the trial court had directed for it over 22 months back. All because the HC has stayed the order.

Besides, two fugitive convicts have not been brought to book, while appeals of three convicts, who are now in custody, have remained unsettled at the HC.

The two children of Jonny couldn't have gotten admitted to school this year if rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) hadn't come forward to financially help the family.

"We're still deprived of final justice. We've almost become destitute fighting the long legal battle," Jonny's brother Intiaz Hossain Rocky told The Daily Star.

Rocky has almost become physically disabled, as police tortured him alongside



Jonny, on February 8, 2014.

Rocky, now 32 years old, works at a car-workshop to support his six-member family, which include Jonny's widow and two children.

"Neither the government nor police has given us any financial assistance. They haven't even arrested the two convicts," Rocky said.

"I can't work regularly, as I become sick very often due to the torture. We now want the High Court to settle the case quickly and give the verdict," he said.

Rocky said rights organisation Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) has been providing them with legal assistance, and ASK has given some financial support.

"With ASK's assistance, Jonny's son was admitted to sixth grade and daughter to fourth grade in separate local schools this year. We are grateful," he said.

According to the case statement, a group of 25 to 26 police officers -- including then sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station Zahidur Rahman -- raided

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A playful game of football goes on between two elephants in a ring at National Zoo in Mirpur to entertain the hundreds of visitors that thronged the place during Eid holidays. Elephant riders performed various stunts like these to entertain onlookers throughout the day. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Meat made affordable

Market of collected meat catering to lower-income groups

DIPAN NANDY

On the day of Eid-ul-Azha, there were small gatherings on the corners of Dhaka's empty streets. People from lower-income backgrounds were seen sitting on the roads, selling meat collected from households that performed the sacrifice.

The meat was being sold at a much lower price, catering to people from the same backgrounds.

Talking to vendors at various places in the capital, including Karwan Bazar rail gate intersection and Mohammadpur on Sunday, this correspondent found that many seasonal butchers were selling meat as well.

Sajib, who is a mason by profession, works as a butcher every year on Eid-ul-Azha. He was found selling meat at Karwan Bazar.

"This year, I slaughtered five cows in Moghbazar, and owners gave me a portion of the meat. That's what I'm selling," he said.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

This photo was taken from Karwanbazar Rail Gate area.

Niyamat, another seasonal butcher, was seen with 15 kilos of meat.

"I slaughtered four cows from morning till noon and got a portion of the meat from the owners, which I'm selling for some extra money," he said.

Momin from Rayerbazar was spotted selling meat in front of Mohammadpur Krishi Market.

"Every year on Eid day, I work as a butcher, bring the meat I get from the owners here and sell it. I mainly make money from my work as a butcher, but selling the extra meat here earns me some extra money," he said.

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Capital cleaned up promptly



Conservancy workers of DSCC cleaning up waste near Green Life hospital. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The combined efforts of Dhaka's city corporations and residents managed to clean the capital within the three days after Eid.

Residents were encouraged to maintain proper disposal and clean surroundings with bleach, and they were seen following the instructions in many areas.

Besides, many were satisfied with the city corporations' prompt steps.

"After sacrificing our cattle, we cleaned the area and left the waste at the roadside, which was then collected by conservancy workers quickly," said Jahirul Islam, a resident of Gandaria.

"After the sacrifice, we personally cleaned the area. The city corporation also helped us clean the waste," said Shariat Ullah of Mohammadpur.

Earlier, the two mayors announced that they would ensure that the city would be completely cleaned in three days.

WASTE REMOVED

◆ DSCC 20,626.34 tonnes

◆ DNCC 19,223 tonnes

CONSERVANCY WORKERS DEPLOYED

◆ DSCC 9,950

◆ DNCC 9,090

SOURCE: DSCC, DNCC

while visiting different areas on Sunday, said they cleaned all animal waste on the first day of Eid.

Atiqul said around 10,000 conservancy workers were cleaning DNCC areas. Cleaning the city was possible due to the cooperation of city dwellers. He said they have distributed 6.5 lakh garbage bags, 53 tonnes of bleaching powder, and 866 5-litre-sized containers of disinfectant among residents.

Around 9,950 conservancy workers were cleaning DSCC areas, said its officials. They have distributed 28 tonnes of bleaching powder, 1.20 lakh garbage bags and 250 gallons of disinfectant.

Despite all the efforts, however, animal waste was still seen at some places on the third day of Eid.

The locations -- including Meradia and Dinanath Sen Road of Gendaria -- were still in bad condition, as cattle markets were set up on the roads, said locals. Bad smells emanating from the piles had spread throughout the area.



With frequent rain over the last month, the skies have cleared off the dust, rejuvenating nature in the process -- especially the Buriganga. This photo was taken from Babubazar bridge yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Argentina plans to open embassy in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Argentina is actively considering to open its embassy in Bangladesh as the Latin American country is eager to strengthen economic and political relations with Bangladesh.

"We are actively considering opening of an embassy here next year. There are a lot of possibilities here. We want to have a mission as soon as possible. We think we must strengthen our commercial sector," said Claudio Javier Rozencwaig, undersecretary of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and

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73 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 73 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours that ended 8:00am yesterday.

With the 73 new cases the total number of dengue patients rose to 1,477, according to DGHs.

Among the patients, 141 are still undergoing treatment. A total of 1,335 patients have been released from hospitals and one patient has died so far.

Flood death toll now 116

UNB, Dhaka

Three more deaths from flood were reported in Sunamganj and Moulvibazar districts in 24 hours till yesterday morning, taking the total fatalities to 116. The latest victims drowned in floodwater, according to DGHs. The total deaths were recorded between May 17 and July 12.

Among the deceased, 88 died by drowning in floodwater, 15 from lightning strikes, two from snake bites, one from diarrhoea and nine due to other reasons.

Over 99.50 lakh animals sacrificed

UNB, Dhaka

A total of 99,50,763 cattle have been sacrificed across the country on Eid-ul-Azha this year.

Fisheries and Livestock Ministry issued a press release in this regard on Monday.

More than 24.91 lakh cattle were sacrificed in Dhaka division and more than 21.28 lakh in Chattogram.

Besides, 19.98 lakh animals were sacrificed in Rajshahi, 11.38 lakh in Rangpur, 9.26 lakh in Khulna, 4.98 lakh in Barishal, 3.92 lakh in Sylhet and 3.75 lakh in Mymensingh. Last year, more than 90.93 lakh cattle were sacrificed.

Man stabbed to death in Jatrabari

UNB, Dhaka

An elderly man was stabbed to death allegedly by some local miscreants at Jatrabari wholesale fish market in Dhaka on Monday.

The deceased is Ashrafur Rahman, a resident of Bagicha in Jatrabari. Ashrafur's son Mehedi alleged that miscreants attacked Ashrafur as he stopped them from gambling on Monday afternoon.

He was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead on arrival, said inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the hospital police outpost. Police said they are looking into the incident.

Govt offices, banks reopen after Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Government offices reopened yesterday after Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

This year, government officials went on holidays from July 8 to July 11, with July 8 being a Friday.

However, the attendance of officials at the Secretariat in Dhaka was poor, with many people extending their vacation till July 14. Banks and financial institutions also resumed operations yesterday.