



Psychiatric patient 'slipped through net'

A psychiatric patient who killed a man during a stabbing spree in London "slipped through the safety net" after serious failures by health care staff, a report has found.

Ismail Dogan, 33, a paranoid schizophrenic, killed Ernie Meads, 58, and seriously injured five others in Edmonton, north London, in December 2004.

He is being held indefinitely in Broadmoor hospital after admitting manslaughter due to diminished responsibility.

Crucial information on Dogan was not shared between Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust and the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust, the review into his care found.

A total of 23 "critical junctures" at which his condition might have been stabilised were missed and there was a lax attitude to monitoring his medication, added the report, which was commissioned by NHS London.

Evidence also suggested that one nurse, who was Dogan's "care coordinator" and has since been suspended, altered notes relating to his case in an attempt to show that he was being properly assessed, the report found.

Dogan, who was born in Turkey, was released from a psychiatric hospital in 2001.

He stopped taking antipsychotic medication in June 2004 and began talking to himself and behaving oddly, the report found. He had said a bird had told him to stab people.

His parents were afraid of him and attempted at least five times to get help for their son, the report found, yet their pleas were ignored.

Mr Meads's sister, Pamela Stuart, said the report showed "the whole system has failed".

In a joint statement, the trusts involved said new procedures had been introduced as a result of the case.

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Lakshmi jubilant despite obstacles, but appeals for more assistance

by Rochelle Palipane
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A year has passed since yours truly wrote about the plight faced by the youngsters of Nawodaya Special Children's Foundation, a school for disadvantaged youngsters run by the daring, yet spirited lady, Lakshmi Karunajeewa. Her resilience has helped her in her search for a spacious premise for her school.

Despite various adversities in the form of unyielding bureaucracy, illness and others, she has valiantly stuck to her cause and emerged jubilant.

A kindred soul, an expatriate living in Canada, who was present at the 2007 Christmas concert, had raised funds in order to supplement the school with the advance payment for the new location and the opening ceremony was held in January. Despite Lakshmi's untiring effort, Nawodaya SCF faces many problems and they appeal to the public to assist them in the following:

1. Although the advance payment has been taken care of by the above mentioned philanthropist, the monthly payment of LKR 12,000/- has to be borne by the school and it is done with great difficulty at

present.

2. The need to pay an incentive to the three assistant teachers who are working on a voluntary basis now.

3. The basic needs such as electricity, water and sanitation have to be addressed.

Service and care through Nawodaya Special Childrens Foundation

At present, they take care of 15 special children who are taught to attend to their daily needs, hand-eye coordination, reading, writing, numbers, aesthetic studies, religion, development of language and pastimes developed in this school.

They plan to improve pre-school education, daily exercises, aesthetic studies and the compulsory need to educate the parents on how to cope with the children.

Having a permanent location (specifically in the Dehiwala/Moratuwa area) is imperative for the peace of mind of the destitute individuals who send their children to Nawodaya SCF, said Lakshmi.

"If the parents of a special child is willing to donate a place, we would willingly offer assistance to the parents, and take care of the child.

"In addition, we look forward to enrolling children with special needs, irrespec-



Invitees lighting the traditional oil lamp at the new building opening ceremony

tive of their age, caste and creed. For further information visit the school or contact Lakshmi Karunajeewa. Details as follows:
 Name: Nawodaya Special Children's Foundation

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 Email: nawodayalanka@gmail.com
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Mosha the elephant gets prosthetic leg

Mosha the elephant has been fitted with a prosthetic leg in Lampang, Thailand, after losing a limb when she stepped on a landmine.

She was rescued when she was seven-months-old and brought to the Friends of the Asian Elephant hospital where she became the first elephant in the world to be fitted with an artificial leg in 2007.

Now aged three, Mosha is growing at such a rate she has now been fitted with a second prosthetic leg.

Her home in the tropical jungle of northern Thailand, near the Cambodian border, is an orphanage for elephants.

Stumbling around on three limbs at the world's first elephant hospital, she refused to mix with other elephants and shunned food.

Doctors had feared the worst until she had a chance meeting with Dr. Therdchai Jivacate, who runs a foundation for human amputees.

Jivacate knew that Mosha would not survive as she grew heavier with age.

"When she cannot walk, she is going to die," he said.

Jivacate's foundation has made

prosthetic limbs for over 16,000 humans. But it had never fitted an elephant until Mosha caught Jivacate's eye.

Fashioned out of plastic, sawdust and metal, doctors at his Prostheses

Foundation successfully fitted an artificial leg for Mosha sturdy enough to carry her weight.

One of many patients treated at the unique £1m animal hospital, with fellow elephants suffering infections, bro-

ken bones and knife wounds, Mosha soon became the most famous.

Almost a year after her operation, Mosha eats 200 pounds of food a day and is growing so fast that doctors recently fitted her with a second, larger

prosthesis.

After her daily exercises, Mosha takes a nap. The prosthesis is only removed when she sleeps.

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Mosha the injured elephant being fitted with a prosthetic leg.



Mosha the elephant walks on her new prosthetic leg, at the FAE Elephant Hospital in Thailand.