

Bidisha not freed

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chairman of Jatiya Party (JP), filed a case on June 4 accusing Bidisha of theft, ransacking, and making threats to his life. Gulshan police arrested Bidisha at Ershad's Baridhara residence the same day. She was shown arrested later in a passport forgery case. The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka refused her bail in both cases.

Despite securing bail at the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka on Sunday in the theft case, the authorities did not let go of Bidisha, as she stands accused in the passport forgery case.

Yesterday, the same court granted Bidisha an ad-interim bail in the passport forgery case, clearing way for her release should there be no fresh case against her or she not be shown arrested in other cases.

Moving the bail petition yesterday, Bidisha's counsel Advocate Kazi M Sajwar Hossain told the court that she might die in the prison cell if not set free on bail as she has been seriously ill.

The counsel submitted that the allegation against Bidisha that she put more than one place and date of birth in her passports is not an offence under the passport act. "It is to be considered whether her signature was correct or not."

He also argued that the sections of the passport act under which the charges have been brought are bailable.

Court to record

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home minister, Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain, Rab Director General Abdul Aziz Sarkar, Rab-3 commanding officer, second-in-command, and seven to eight other Rab members, and Rubel, vice president of Dhaka city JCD (South). The complaint does not clarify as to who it is referring to as the home minister.

On receiving orders for judicial inquiry into the matter from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Jalal Ahmed, Metropolitan Magistrate Shafiq Anwar issued the summon on Sumon's mother Amela Khatun.

Amela on June 6 filed the case with the CMM's Court, Dhaka.

Sumon Ahmed, 21, was killed in an encounter with a Rab team at road No. 4 of Block F in Bansree Project area in the early hours of May 31, said a Rab press release.

The complainant however said Sumon, the acting joint convenor of ward No 25 unit, Jubo League, was killed at Hindupara under Khilgaon Police Station (PS) sometime between 9:00pm of May 30 and 5:00am of May 31.

After recording the statement of Amela, Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mujibul Haq ordered a judicial enquiry into the matter.

Amela said Sumon left their East Goran house at 8:30pm on May 30 for Loren International, a cable operator's office that he used to work for at Barek Plaza in Goran. Some Rab men in plainclothes went to the office at about 9:30pm and enquired about his identity. When Sumon gave his identity, the Rab men handcuffed him at gunpoint.

Blindfolded, Sumon was whisked away in a yellow cab along with two of his office assistants in front of hundreds of witnesses, the complainant said.

Amela came to know about the incident from Anis, another employee of Loren International.

She and her husband Abdul Hakim rushed to the Khilgaon Police Station and then to the Detective Branch Office on Minto Road, but found no trace of their son.

The couple then went to the Rab-3 office at Tikatuli at about 2:30am and found their son sitting inside a white jeep. As they tried to talk to him, a Rab sepyo scared them off from there. But they kept on waiting on a nearby footpath.

After a while, they saw around

Bangla Bhai

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unclear. Barik claimed he caught Mazzal entering his house illegally to kill him at around 2am, said the police.

But other police and local people said the murder might have occurred either because of Mazzal's love affair with Barik's daughter or because he left JMB.

Mazzal was a listed outlaw belonging to Purbo Banglar Communist Party before he joined JMB through a formal surrender when Bangla Bhai launched the party in April last year.

He left JMB last January when police, moving against JMB for the first time, arrested 64 cadres in Bagmara.

Mazzal, a day labourer, had a love affair with Barik's daughter, Umme Kulsum, and went to the house at her call as he did several times before, said police, quoting local people.

"Barik caught him at 2am, but [Barik] cried for help at around 6am, saying an outlaw attacked his house. We rushed to the scene to witness that several of Bangla Bhai's men were beating Mazzal," said a witness.

The beating continued even in front of the acting chairman of Jhikra union, Siddikur Rahman, at around 6am.

At around 8am, Mazzal's mother reached the scene and asked Barik to hand him over to the police if her son committed any crime. Instead, the attackers left his body on her lap.

Opposing the bail prayer, acting Public Prosecutor Golam Mostafa Khan said Bidisha may have worked in different places, but she cannot have different dates of birth. Informing the court that she has four to five passports, the acting PP said the law prohibits one from possessing more than one passport.

The defence counsel told the court that the authorities should be equally blamed for a person's having more than one passport since passports are issued after police verification.

After furnishing the bail bond, Bidisha's lawyers took the release order to Dhaka Central Jail "But when we went there at 6:30pm, we were told that she had been shown arrested in another case," Advocate Kamruzzaman Mahbub, one of Bidisha's lawyers, told The Daily Star last night.

"The jail authorities are saying that an arrest warrant has been issued against Bidisha the same day (on June 5) when the cheating case was filed," he said.

The jail authorities initially tried not to show them the arrest warrant and records of the case, saying those were locked in the almirah, but showed them later, he said.

CHEATING CHARGE
Ershad said he married Bidisha at a kazi office in Keraniganj on March 27, 2000 upon a bond of Tk 5 lakh.

"She used to visit other countries

seven to eight Rab men taking their son out on the same vehicle. A Rab member asked the two to go to Khilgaon PS the following morning.

Hakim went to the police station at about 5:00am and found Sumon's body lying in a police van. It bore cuts in the forehead, nose, eye-brows, and five holes in the chest apparently caused by bullets, the complainant added.

She said the body bore all the hallmarks of a grisly murder and the circumstances hinted that the Rab-3 members with the connivance of the other accused shot him dead in a pre-planned manner in between 3:00am to 5:00am.

The complainant mentioned that Sumon was an activist of Jubo Dal, the youth front of the ruling BNP, before joining the main opposition Awami League's (AL) youth wing Jubo League.

He participated in the AL-backed agitation programmes against the deviation from the original design of Khilgaon Flyover. He was injured when police once charged baton on the protestors, Amela Khatun said.

On May 6, local JCD leader Rubel threatened him with teaching 'a good lesson' while he was distributing leaflets at Shahi Mosque after jum'a prayers, she alleged.

In the complaint, Amela also said that she had learnt somehow that her son's defection from the BNP angered Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, the local MP who later 'consulted the home minister about the matter'.

Following the orders of the two ministers, the other accused picked him up from his office and killed him, said the complaint.

Tk 10 lakh

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police station at around 12:45pm, police and witnesses said.

The robbers made the staff hostage at gunpoint, left them tied up and entered Nazrul Islam's adjoining residence.

Keeping Nazrul's 2-year-old grandson's head at gunpoint, the robbers forced its mother Fauzia to give them keys of all the safes.

They looted Tk 5 lakh and valuables including 50 tolas of gold ornaments from the house and fled in two CNG-run autorickshaws.

Police nabbed Harun, a recently employed driver of the residence, for his suspected link in the robbery.

Local people called police at dawn, but they reached the scene at around 11am, sources said.

Abdullah Al Mahmood, superintendent of police in Rajshahi, said that every clue to the murder would have been investigated. "It is more believable that the murder occurred over an unequal love-affair."

Mazzal's brother, Anisur Rahman, filed a case in this regard accusing Abdul Barik and his men, but police have yet to arrest anyone in this connection.

Bangla Bhai's men have become active in the restive Bagmara upazila after some 64 JMB cadres were recently released on bail.

JP leader

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murder of Katuri on May 26.

The police yesterday produced him before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka seeking a 10-day remand.

The investigation officer (IO) told the court Kayum Biswas, husband of Katuri, along with the JP leader killed his wife. They stabbed her in a yellow taxicab and dumped her on Road No. 26 in Gulshan-1 at 9:15pm, he added.

He sought the remand to learn about other killers and the reason behind the murder.

Magistrate Rokon Ouddoullah rejected the arrestee's bail petition and placed him on three-day remand.

citing various reasons without giving proper explanations, creating suspicion in the mind of the plaintiff," the complaint reads.

Ershad learnt that Bidisha had been the wife of Wilson, a Briton, keeping Ershad in the dark despite having relations with him (Ershad) in marriage, the complaint said. Bidisha used to stay at Wilson's house, it said, adding she left Bangladesh on March 30, 2002 and reached London on April 12 the same year.

In the application Bidisha had filed at Bangladesh High Commission in London for passport, she mentioned Wilson as her husband and was issued a passport on April 22, 2002, said the complainant.

"The application for passport and Bidisha's receipt of the passport prove she concealed the information of her marital relations with Peter Stuart Wilson during her marriage with the complainant (Ershad) and she married the complainant illegally and deceitfully," added the complaint.

Even after marrying Ershad, she mentioned in the application for passport that Wilson was her husband. She continued the relation with Wilson and stayed with him in London as husband and wife.

HC ORDER ON TREATMENT
A High Court division bench yesterday ordered for continuation of the medical treatment of Bidisha until she fully recovers. The bench also issued a rule, returnable in three weeks, upon the government as to why Bidisha will not be allowed to meet her counsels, Ershad, meanwhile, returns home from Saudi Arabia today and is scheduled to land at Zia International Airport at 8:30am. A hearing on a corruption case against him in a lower court is scheduled for June 16.

Mobile

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expansion plans of all the operators for rural areas, they said.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) meanwhile issued a statutory regulatory order giving effect to the proposed imposition of duty.

This has created chaos in the sector, pushing up the cost of mobile phone connections. Operators have allegedly stopped giving new connections or they are making quick buck in this situation.

The operators will meet NBR officials and the finance minister to resolve the issue.

They submitted a memorandum to Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque on Sunday, seeking his immediate intervention.

Faisal Morshed said even if the fresh duty is withdrawn, the government will get a huge amount in other direct and indirect taxes paid by cell phone operators and subscribers. "We are sympathetic to the customers and also concerned about government revenue."

The NBR in a clarification yesterday said mobile subscribers are not required to pay the newly imposed tax for replacement of stolen or damaged SIM.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Jubo Jote and Citizen's Rights Movement have urged the government to withdraw the proposed tax.

Govt plans

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Tata Group on April 20 submitted the \$2.5 billion investment proposal for setting up a 1000 MW power station, a steel mill with an annual production capacity of 420,000 tonnes and a one million-ton capacity fertiliser factory.

The first round negotiations took place on May 25-27. The government plans to wind up the negotiations by August this year to pave the way for signing a final agreement with Tata.

Exports support

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country hassle free," Mir Sahabuddin said.

The proposed 20 storeyed NEH building will be setup on 1.33 acres of unused land of the proposed world trade centre at a cost of Tk 58 crore in city's Karwan Bazar area.

Exporters can set their display and sales centre at the NEH to woo buyers of their products, sources said, adding that buyers can choose their required products without physical visit to respective factories located in different parts of the country.

"It will create a competitive environment for the exporters as they will experience instant reaction from the overseas buyers," another official said.

He said a trade information centre, national export training centre and a research and development centre will also be established at the compound to provide back up support to the exporters.

"Exporters alone are not enough to understand customers' changing demand in the world market. So the government has to provide them necessary support in research and development," a commerce ministry official said.

All the business promotion councils will be relocated to the building to provide policy support to the exporters in a participatory approach.

The EPB office will also be relocated to the same building, the official said, adding that after approval by the commerce ministry, the EPB will recruit consultant within three months.

All developed countries have such centres to serve export oriented industries and the EPB will follow European model in establishing the NEH.

PM flies to Doha

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in Doha on Sunday to prepare the draft Doha Declaration and draft Doha Plan of Action. Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin led the Bangladesh delegation at the meeting, official sources said.

A ministerial-level meeting of G-77 held in the Qatar capital yesterday had an interactive session on South-South cooperation, and implementation of the outcome of the First South Summit.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan highlighted Bangladesh's progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the need for international assistance to meet the targets.

He also led the Bangladesh delegation at the NAM (Non-aligned Movement) Ministerial meeting on "UN Reforms" held yesterday on the sidelines of the summit, foreign ministry officials said.

Khaleda, who will lead a 30-member delegation, will address the summit tomorrow. She will also hold bilateral meetings with a number of world leaders, including the emir of Qatar, prime minister of Malaysia and king of Nepal, to further enhance bilateral cooperation and strengthen trade and investment ties.

At the summit, Bangladesh will emphasise market access, global zero-tariff access to all products originating from the LDCs and flexibility of the rules of origin and preferential treatment, officials said.

Dhaka will suggest that the global trade agenda should be linked to global poverty reduction agenda, and new and additional resources should be allocated to build trade capacity of the LDC's economies, the foreign secretary said.

Bangladesh will particularly stress the development dimension of the Doha Round and will call for greater South-South cooperation in terms of increased implementation of the General System of Trade Preference (GSTP), investment, exchange of best practices, and technological know-how.

Earlier at a press briefing on

June 9, Hemayetuddin said Khaleda will attend a reception in Doha to be hosted by the Bangladesh community in Qatar on the first day of her visit.

The inaugural session of the summit will be addressed by, among others, the prime minister of Jamaica as the chair of G-77, the emir of Qatar as the host and the UN secretary-general.

"The developing world is expected to forge a strong coalition on inter-related issues of aid and trade, which are of crucial importance for them," Hemayetuddin said.

Developed nations did not fulfil their pledge to disburse 0.7 percent of their GDP in aid to the LDCs in the last three decades and a half.

In the late 1980s, ODA reached 0.33 percent but in the 1990s it had a steady decline. Global ODA now stands at 0.25 percent.

On May 24, the EU announced that its members would double their aid to poor countries by 2015.

Five of the 28 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member-states -- Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Denmark -- have achieved the percent target of 0.7 percent ODA.

On the basis of recent commitments by several donors, annual ODA flows should increase to about \$100 billion by 2010.

A major focus at the summit will be on multilateral trade issues, and Bangladesh delegation will play an active role in forging a consensus on the issues before the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting to be held in December.

Rab

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13, son of Amirul Islam, and Shah Alam, 11, son of Amirul Islam of Bhabanipur village.

On information, a team of Rab raided the village in the sadar upazila and rescued the five, police said.

Sensing the presence of Rab men, traffickers fled the spot leaving the children behind, the police added. The Rab handed them over to Satkhira police.

Food tainted

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Carbinol, known as 'master essences,' with crude soybean oil, passing it off as mustard oil.

Nowadays, pure butter oil and ghee are also very rare in the market, sources said. Dishonest traders use a host of ingredients - animal fat, palm oil, potato smash, and vegetable oil - to make fake butter oil. They even mix steirian oil - an ingredient in soap - with ghee, to increase the proportions.

Producers and wholesalers also cheat buyers by using attractive labels like '100 percent cholesterol free' or 'original local ghee,' even though such products are anything but this.

Some consumers say they no longer trust such advertisements. "It is not possible to rely on any product. We have heard the producers or adulterators may print and use the BSTI seal. How can we trust the advertisement?" said Selina Akhter, a housewife from Kathalbagan area. "Most of the producers do not maintain the quality but the government also reluctant to do anything against them," she said.

Most of these activities go completely undetected by the relevant authorities. A recent report by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) disclosed, for example, that the lab of BSTI does not have modern equipment to measure the artificial colours used in different goods like spices. CAB sources also said that most of the red chilli powder used in the market is adulterated - in most cases the spices are mixed with brick dust. Fine sawdust is also often mixed with cumin and other ground spices. Some of those items, nonetheless, are being sold with BSTI labels.

Such unchecked adulteration of food poses grave health risks to the public. Adulterated oil, ghee and other goods mixed with artificial colours may cause liver damage and cancer, said doctors said from the department of public health.

Besides oil, honey is also fre-

quently adulterated, said Abdul Mannan, the former quality analyst of the Mohakhali Public Health Institute. In lab tests, sugar syrup is often found to be mixed with honey.

Officials from the BSTI, while admitting that adulteration takes place, said the tendency of selling products with fake BSTI labels has decreased sharply in recent times, following an amendment of their laws in 2003.

"I think the situation has improved a lot," said Lutfar Rahman Khan, the director, Certification Marks. "Nowadays, fake industry products are not available in the market at that level. But other adulterated products may be available in the market."

However, BSTI only deals with products made in factories or by industrial processes. But throughout the market, there are many other agricultural products that are being artificially coloured and mixed with chemicals.

Perhaps the most glaring example is rice, which, despite being a national dietary staple, escapes the scrutiny of BSTI. But CAB sources said that producers put urea fertilizer in rice to make it whiter. Those wanting to eat husk paddle processed rice (red rice) will also find themselves cheated, as artificially colored rice is also available in the market.

The problem, it seems, is all pervasive. Amir Hossain, a wholesale rice trader from Karwan Bazar, recently told The Daily Star that all the rice available in the market is processed with urea fertilizer.

"The colour of the rice would not be attractive if they do not put the urea while processing the rice. So they do it to make rice colourful," he said.

Adulteration in different goods	
● Red chilli powder	Brick dust, pulses
● Turmeric powder	Toxic colour, flour
● Salt	Less iodine, white sand
● Rice	Urea fertilizer, artificial colour, brick chips
● Pulses	Artificial colour
● Bottled water	Normal supply water, dirt
● Honey	Sugar syrup
● Coconut oil	Soybean oil, palm oil
● Tea	Colored sawmill dust, dried used Tea
● Mustard oil	Soybean oil
● Soybean oil	Palm oil
● Ghee	Vegetable oil, palm oil, essence
● Sweetmeat	Substandard <i>Chhana</i> , fat-less milk
● Fish	Colour, chemicals
● Beef	Buffalo meat
● Fruits	Chemicals, hormone
● Vegetables	Pesticides, insecticides
● Puffed rice	Urea fertilizer
● Biscuit and bread	Low-quality flour
● Ice cream	Dyes, impure milk powder

2 teachers held with 4 HSC exam papers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Police arrested two teachers with four Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations scripts in Nabharan yesterday.

They are Shaurajit Mondol, an English teacher at Shingha Bihari Lal College, Magura, and Proshanta Biswas of AG Academy.

Sources said Shaurajit, head examiner for English second paper exam of Jessore Education Board, admitted that he had found an examinee's address written in his or her script.

Accordingly, he and his friend Proshanta came to Nabharan with the answer scripts to trace the candidates. Their motive was to take money from the candidates for giving pass marks, the sources added.

Outlaw

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Sensing police presence, the GMF opened fire on the law-enforcers at about 4:00am, while their rivals fled.

The police said they returned fire and drove away the attackers after a one-hour-long gunfight. They also recovered the body of Shamim and seized a shutter gun with several bullets from the spot.

Shamim, a resident of Belghoria village, was said to be accused in several criminal cases filed with different police stations. But the police could not say immediately the number of the cases.

Burnt housewife

FROM PAGE 16
five others injured, while the pilot, Ahsanul Kabir, cheated death by bailing out of the aircraft.

Rowshan's husband Al Amin, a tailor, and sister received her body from the DMCH in the presence of BAF officials. Morgue sources said they did not allow them (morgue staff) to perform her autopsy.

Her body was taken to Fayedabad and to her village in Gilatola in Najipur upazila, Pirojpur under BAF management.

Meantime, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) sources said the four-member board formed to estimate the damage in the crash will soon submit its report. "The BAF will compensate the affected family members following the report submission," said ISPR Director Nazrul Islam.

The board is also trying to find out the reasons behind the crash, the sources added.

3 killed

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Hairampur in city's Mirpur area, police said.

Shahidul did not return home after his friend Kalu called him out from his residence at 1:00am yesterday, sources said.

Police arrested Shahidul's friend Zakir suspecting his connections in the murder.

Md Babu came under attack by people in Ramekanda under Keraniganj upazila. Accusing Babu to be a mugger, they beat him up mercilessly.

Hearing the news, police rushed to the spot, rescued Babu in a very critical condition and took him to Mitford Hospital from where he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Babu was declared dead soon after his admission.

Babu was familiar as a food retailer at the emergency gate of DMCH.

Babu's relatives said he had received death threats on mobile phone yesterday and enmity among the family members of his in-laws was possibly responsible for the death.

Criminals shot dead Mohammad Sentu, 25, at Mandail in Keraniganj at 2:00pm yesterday.

Relatives said Sentu was a fish trader in Swarighat while police said he was involved in drugs dealing.

Meanwhile, Md Alam beaten up in Lalbagh on June 4, succumbed to his injuries early yesterday.

Inflation

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fuel price in recent times will further fuel inflation. Despite the boro harvest, rice price still remains high.

CPD Senior Research Fellow Dr Uttam Kumar Deb said farmers and traders have stocked rice in apprehension of further price hike leading to the high price level.

Meanwhile, trade balance recorded a larger deficit of \$2.6 billion during July-March as against \$1.5 billion of the same period last fiscal year.

The deficit widened because of quick import expansion. Import grew by 26.30 percent during July-March, which was 12.53 percent in the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

Due to the larger trade gap, the current account balance recorded a deficit of \$420 million during July-March, which was a surplus of \$428 million during the same time last fiscal year.

The rise of inflation and balance of payment deficit matched a huge outflow because of private sector credit during July-April in the present FY. Against 10.20 percent growth or increase of Tk 8,455 crore during July-March of last FY it clocked a 14.35 percent growth or increase of Tk 13,583 crore in the present FY.

4 GLs, 10 Iraqis killed in attacks 26 bodies found

REUTERS, AFP, Tikrit/ Baghdad

Four suicide bombers and attacks targeted Iraqi security forces killed 10 people while four US troops were killed in separate attacks, the Interior Ministry and police said yesterday.

The new wave of attacks in Baghdad, Samarra and Tikrit came as radical anti-American Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr met with the Russia ambassador and tribal chiefs from the insurgent hotbeds of Fallujah and Ramadi. Russia and al-Sadr fiercely opposed the war.

The first blast occurred in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit when police pursued a suspicious driver who blew up his car after being cornered. The blast killed two policemen and a firefighter and wounded 11 people, including seven civilians.

Major Salah al-Samarai of the Iraqi police said a second suicide car bomber blew up a vehicle near a joint Iraqi army and police patrol in the nearby city of Samarra, killing five members of the security forces and wounding five others.

Near Baghdad, a roadside bomb blew up next to a patrol of police commandos, an elite police unit, killing one and injuring four, the Interior Ministry said.

Four US soldiers were killed during two attacks in a volatile region west of Baghdad, US military statements said Sunday.

Two died Saturday when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb during

combat operations southeast of Taqaddum, while the other two were killed under similar circumstances southwest of al-Amiriyah, the statements said.

Names and details were withheld pending notification of the victims' relatives.

Earlier the bodies of 26 people, bound and shot in the head, have been found on a military firing range in the eastern suburbs of Baghdad, police said yesterday.

Judicial probe

FROM PAGE 16
Jamaluddin Ahmed, the CMM.

According to a reliable source of the CMM court, the Khulna unit of Jatiya Mahila Ainijibi Samity helped Fatema Khatoun file the case on Sunday.