

## Bidisha not freed

FROM PAGE 1  
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 Saifur 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

FROM PAGE 1  
home minister, Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Home Secretary Safer 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 Katun.

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 Juba League, was killed at Khilgaon 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 sepoys scared them off from there. But they kept on waiting on a nearby footpath.

After a while, they saw around

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 under a bond of Tk 5 lakh.

"She used to visit other countries

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 deceptively," he added.

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.

**H 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

FROM PAGE 16  
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 Moshed 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

FROM PAGE 1  
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

FROM PAGE 16  
country hassle free," Mir Sabuuddin 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.

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 be 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 JMMB cadres were recently released on bail.

## JP leader

FROM PAGE 16  
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 taxi 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.

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## PM flies to Doha

FROM PAGE 1  
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 first day of her visit.

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

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 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

FROM PAGE 1  
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

FROM PAGE 1  
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 steerian 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.

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 adulterated 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.

Besides oil, honey is also frequently 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."

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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.

"Those who are advocating for BSTI are also part of that conspiracy," he added.

BNP member Manzur Kader and Jamaat lawmakers Mia Golam

## 2 teachers held with 4 HSC exam papers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JESSORE

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

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

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