

Parents kill

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loans. So Amena took to deceiving people to get money and repay their loans.
Sub-Inspector Nizam said after the couple apologised profusely and promised not to indulge in any such activity again, he let them go and convinced the neighbours to pardon them too.

Sumaiya was treated by a local physician and then handed over to her paternal grandmother in presence of the police that day.

Locals said later the couple took the child back from the grandmother. Nurul Haque, a neighbour, said around 7:00am on Tuesday they heard noises from Emran's house again. Locals forced their way into the house breaking the door.

They found Sumaiya on the floor, blood gushing out of her mouth, Emran holding a machete and Amena sitting on the floor beside her daughter, Nurul said.

None of their three other children were at home.

Police recovered the body and arrested the couple. Later, Sumaiya's body was handed over to her relatives who buried her.

Sub-Inspector Nizam said they found marks of torture on Sumaiya's body and her mouth stained with blood.

Saiful Islam, chairman of local union parishad, said had police arrested the couple on Monday, Sumaiya might have survived.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shahrasti Model Police Station, refuted the allegation of police negligence.

He said police cautioned the couple and handed the child over to locals for treatment.

Shahrasti Police filed a case against the couple on Tuesday and yesterday produced them before a Chandpur court, which sent them to jail denying bail prayers, said Md Moniruzzaman, in charge of Chandpur Court police.

Tailbacks in city

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The committee chief said half the time of their three-hour meeting was spent discussing the issue.

Officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police informed the committee that they become helpless when VIPs violate traffic rules.

The DMP officials opined for amending the rules, increasing the fines and stern punitive actions for traffic rules violations.

Home Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, also a member of the JS body, echoed the same view of the committee and assured that the ministry would act in line with the sub-committee's recommendation.

In the meeting, police officials asked the ministry for the permission to use vehicles they seize, on different allegations and in connection with cases, for "official purpose", if the owners do not take their vehicles back within a certain period of time.

The committee chief said the ministry would send a letter to the law ministry seeking their advice on whether the police would be able to use the vehicles under the existing laws and rules.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has strengthened its drive against unfit vehicles following a High Court directive to immediately stop plying of such vehicles.

Experts think such unfit vehicles and unlicensed drivers are major reasons for road accidents and congestion.

Unfit vehicles often break down on roads creating traffic bottlenecks and unskilled and unlicensed drivers drive haphazardly causing jams, said Shamsul Hoque, former director of Accident Research Institute (ARI) of Buet.

He thinks unplanned road network is the major cause for the traffic congestion in the capital.

Around 25 percent of total areas of a city are supposed to be left for roads and footpaths. But there is only eight percent in Dhaka city, he said.

BRTA in its drive yesterday filed cases against 57 types of vehicles that were plying without fitness certificates.

Besides, it fined drivers and owners of dozens of vehicles Tk 65,000 for not having driving licenses and other documents.

A total of 12 vehicles, including buses and CNG-run auto rickshaws, were impounded, said Bijoy Bhusan Paul, director (enforcement) of BRTA.

Additionally, eight drivers were jailed, for seven days to one month, for driving without a licence, he told The Daily Star.

Executive magistrates of the BRTA yesterday conducted drive at four spots, Karwan Bazar, Airport, Arambagh in the capital and Mawa in Munshiganj.

Over 22 lakh vehicles, including buses, minibuses, cars, CNG-run auto rickshaws, lorries and pickups, are registered with the BRTA and of them over 9 lakhs are in Dhaka, according to BRTA.

27 killed

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collapsed, he was quoted by NDTV as saying.
He said even 10 minutes before the accident, the tracks had been intact, and many trains had passed that area safely.

Govt staff involved: TIB

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In the four years since 2012, as many as 63 question papers of primary terminal, JSC, SSC and HSC exams were leaked. Of those, questions of all papers of primary terminal and junior school certificate exams held in last year and the previous year were leaked, it says.

"Education is one of the sectors for which Bangladesh has been praised worldwide... but we are worried about the quality of education," Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, told reporters.

He said question paper leak was a major problem in education.

According to the report, National Academy for Primary Education, Directorate of Primary Education, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, BG Press and district and upazila administrations are the government bodies whose officials are involved in the leak.

"Questions can be leaked at different stages and in different ways. No single institution can be blamed [for this]," said Rumana Sharmin, deputy programme manager (research and policy) at the TIB, while presenting the findings.

It is quite impossible to leak question papers unless some government employees at any of the three stages -- preparation, printing and distribution -- are involved.

The report says though the government has taken several deterrent measures, question papers continue to be leaked for a variety of reasons. Top among them are policymakers' denial of the leak, lack of any instance of punishment, long and manual process in the preparation and distribution and inadequate monitoring.

Questions can be leaked during preparation or moderation. The same moderator remains in the post for years and this is very risky as he can give suggestions to his own school or coaching centres from his experience, the TIB said.

Besides, there is no specific guideline for appointing question paper formulators and moderators.

The risk of leak is high during com-

pose, proof reading, counting, packaging and even after sending the question papers to the boards.

Also, questions can be leaked on the morning of the exam. Some teachers open the sealed envelope containing the questions, take snaps of the questions with their mobile phones and send those to students through text message, email and Facebook, the study found.

"Coaching centres play the leading role in the leak and distribution," it said.

"We are witnessing students growing up in a culture without ethics," said Nihar Ranjan Roy, deputy programme manager (research and policy) at the TIB.

When bought individually, a question paper costs between Tk 20 and 10,000, depending on the time and the place it is bought from. The amount is between Tk 10,000 and 20,000 when it is bought in a group.

"From what we have found, we think it is a growth industry. But we could not determine the actual size of the business," said Iftekharuzzaman, adding that Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid put the business size at Tk 32,000 crore.

"An informal syndicate of a section of government and private stakeholders are involved in the leak," said the TIB executive director.

To check it, strict enforcement of the law is imperative, including bringing the culprits to book, he said.

Replying to a question, Iftekharuzzaman said the tendency of denial of policymakers and ministers contributed to repeated leaks. "We will never be able to solve any problem if we act like an ostrich."

The TIB made seven recommendations, including reinstating the 10-year jail sentence in the Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Act-1992 instead of the current four-year sentence, digitising the entire process from question formulation to distribution, reducing the number of steps involved in the process, publishing the probe report on question leak and withdrawing the MCQ system gradually.

Kabiguru's

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nobel laureate left his mark on all the genres of Bangla literature: songs, poetry, novels, essays, short stories and dramas.

During his lifetime, he wrote 52 poetry collections, 38 dramas, 13 novels, 36 essays and 95 short stories.

National anthems of three countries -- Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka -- are credited to his name. He composed more than 1,900 songs comprising Rabindra Sangeet, one of the most popular genres of music in the Indian Subcontinent.

His work inspired Bangalees of East Pakistan to break free from the oppression of West Pakistan that tried to wipe out his name from the hearts of Bangalees during its 22-year rule.

The cultural movement that started in the early 60s through the celebrations of Tagore's birth anniversary defying an unofficial ban on Rabindra Sangeet hardened our resolve for liberation.

Tagore's brilliance touched every fields of art while his philosophies regarding science, society, economics and politics put him in lively debate in great minds like Mahatma Gandhi and Einstein.

His creation Visva Bharati in Shantiniketan, India is the epitome of education, which has been striving to open the minds of students through interaction with nature and philosophies of life.

Tagore spent a considerable time in the eastern part of Bengal, present-day Bangladesh, where he not only wrote many of his masterpieces, including Chhinnapatra, but left his mark in the hearts of ordinary people who lived under his father's land tenancy, by introducing modern agriculture methods as well as opening a bank.

On every 22nd Srabon, Bangalees remember Tagore not with the sadness of loss but with pride that the rare genius left indelible cultural richness on us for ages to come.

Human traffickers

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journey while many others were killed by human traffickers.

In Bangladesh, organised gangs of traffickers extorted money from the families of the victims through formal payment systems.

Now, the BB has moved to address the issue as a team of the Asia/Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering is expected to visit Bangladesh in October for an on-site supervision to see Bangladesh's position in dealing with the issues of money laundering and terror financing.

Bangladesh came out of the APG grey list last year following the enactment of laws relating to anti-money laundering and terror financing in 2012.

Now, it is on the way to become a compliant country. But money laundering with regard to illegal migration might spoil Bangladesh's prospect of achieving the feat.

Whishing anonymity, a BB official said, "If Bangladesh falls in the grey category again, it will affect the costs of doing business."

Foreign direct and portfolio investments in the country would be affected, and confirmation charges for letter of credit for imports would go up, added the official.

In 2002 and 2008, the APG conducted two rounds of evaluation on Bangladesh to assess the country's level of compliance with the international standard for combating money laundering and terror financing. These peer reviews are referred to as "mutual evaluations".

Founded in 1997, the APG is an autonomous and collaborative international organisation consisting of 41 members and a number of international and regional observers.

Some of the key international organisations support the efforts of the APG in the region. They include the Financial Action Task Force, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, OECD, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Asian Development Bank and the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

Verdict in case against

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who was one of the three accused in the case, as he died on July 28.

The judgement will now be given on Sheikh Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master and Khan Akram Hossain, said Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon, conducting prosecutor of the case.

Sirajul, 73, and Akram, 62, face seven charges for their alleged involvement in war crimes committed in the southern district.

Of the seven charges, four have been brought against Siraj alone in connection with killing more than 600 people, two against the duo and Latif in connection with killing 47 people, and one against Akram and Latif for "killing" a person.

The prosecution had earlier wrapped up their arguments and sought capital punishment of the accused, claiming they proved all seven charges.

The defence, however, claimed the prosecution "simply failed to prove" the charges and sought acquittal of their clients. A defence counsel also accused the investigation officer in the case of adopting a "pick-and-choose" policy to implicate his clients.

After hearing the closing arguments from both the sides, the tribunal on June 23 kept the case waiting for verdict.

LATIF ABATED

One of the accused, Latif, an alleged Razakar from Solarkola village in Kachua upazila, has meanwhile died of old-age complications at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The prosecution formally informed the matter to the tribunal the next day of his death.

During hearing on the matter yes-

terday, Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali said a court usually declares a case closed if the accused dies during trial.

But in this case, there were two other accused and the tribunal kept the verdict waiting upon completion of all proceedings.

Although the dead cannot be convicted or given punishment, the court, upon adjudicating the prosecution evidence, should determine if Latif was guilty or not, Haider said.

But Latif's counsel Sarwar Hossain argued that his client should be abated from the case after his death as per earlier precedence.

The court gave ruling in favour of the defence.

TWO ACCUSED

Sirajul Haque, son of Harejuddin Sheikh of Gotapara under Bagerha Sadar upazila, was the deputy commander of Razakar Bahini in Bagerhat sub-division in 1971, according to the prosecution.

Akram, son of Joynal Abedin Khan of Daibaggahati under Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat, joined the Razakar Bahini in 1971. They "committed" crimes against humanity and genocide during the war, the prosecution said.

Police arrested them in June and July last year following a warrant to that end issued by the tribunal.

The prosecution submitted charges against the accused on September 14 last year and the tribunal framed seven charges against them on November 5.

The prosecution produced 32 witnesses including the investigation officer of the case, while five witnesses defended only Akram and Latif.

'Scraps' on streets

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a human haulier.

Transport owners, however, claimed that the vehicles came under attacks during the BNP-Jamaat's countrywide blockade and shutdowns, and had been in that condition since.

"We incurred a huge loss during that period. We are not that much interested in repairing them. But we check and repair engines regularly to keep the vehicles operational," said Jahangir Alam, owner of a human haulier.

Talking to The Daily Star, at least 10 drivers and owners claimed that they had fitness certificates for their vehicles. However, they could not produce even one.

Asked whether law enforcers check documents, the owners said police hardly do so, as the owners had given two vehicles to two nearby police stations free of cost for their use.

"Even we have provided drivers for the vehicles. So, they don't make any trouble," said an owner, seeking anonymity.

Besides, most of the owners are affiliated with different pro-ruling party organisations and senior party leaders of the area. So, there is no problem in operating the vehicles, the owners claim.

Contacted, Mugda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Omar Faruk said, "We use their [transport owners'] vehicle occasionally, but not all the time."

Passengers on this route are left with little choice but to travel in the rickety vehicles as bus services on this route are limited.

"Engines of these vehicles often stop or produce odd sounds while plying. If it rains, the roof leaks. Besides, seating conditions are so poor that it is not possible to travel comfortably," said Ishtiaq Hossain, an employee of a government bank, who regularly travels on these vehicles.

"They [drivers] drive so recklessly that I remain gripped by fear of accidents all the time," said Mahfuza

Progress not

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15 lakh of them live in Saudi Arabia, 4 lakh in the UAE, 5 lakh in Malaysia and the rest in Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Libya.

But the DIP deputy director said they need to issue the MRP to only 6.23 lakh expatriates in Saudi Arabia, 2 lakh in the UAE, 3.15 lakh in Malaysia and 4.46 lakh in other countries.

He added the total target number of migrants stands only 35 lakh, but the expatriates' ministry claims more than 70 lakh Bangladeshis work abroad.

More interestingly, the DIP has set more than 8 lakh target for a Malaysian outsourcing company -- IRIS Corporation Berhad -- which has already failed to show its performance in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Malaysia.

The company enrolled only 2 lakh migrants and provided the MRP to only 8,000-9,000 expatriates in the three countries in last one year, according to the officials of the Bangladesh missions there.

Against this backdrop, the DIP set the huge target for IRIS, apparently causing a serious concern for the fate of 30 lakh expatriates.

Contacted, DIP Director General NM Zeaul Alam told The Daily Star that they had prepared the progress report based on the legal number of Bangladeshis working abroad.

"We have counted the figures of non-MRP and MRP expatriates. So, there might have been differences between the figures of the expatriates' welfare ministry and the DIP," he observed.

Asked about the IRIS, the DG said if the Malaysian company failed, the work would be done by other means.

The parliamentary body however lambasted the authorities concerned for their delay in issuing MRP among all Bangladeshis expatriates before the deadline.

Expressing grave concern, the committee asked the officials to complete the task "without failure" before the November 24 deadline after which handwritten passports will not be accepted.

"Along with different quarters, we are also very much concerned at the delay of issuance of MRP. We have pointed out different media reports on this issue at the meeting," Tipu Munshi, chief of the committee, told reporters after the meeting.

Tipu, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has assured the committee of completing the task in time.

"But in case of failure, the government should appeal to the International Civil Aviation Organisation to extend the deadline by one month," he added.

But the fact is that there is no option to increase the time petition for the government in issuance of the MRP.

In the face of criticism, the ministry officials told the committee that there are at least five committees comprised of the minister and officials of expatriates' welfare and home ministries and the principal secretary to the premier to oversee the task.

Spicy food can lower

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reporting findings from an extensive study which found that those who regularly consume spicy food had a slightly lower mortality risk over seven years of follow-up, than those who ate them less than once a week.

Out of 487,375 participants, 20,224 died over the average seven year study period.

When the results were adjusted for age and other influential factors, those who had spicy food -- usually in the form of chilli peppers, chilli sauce or chilli oil -- six or seven times a week, were found to have a 14 percent lower mortality risk than those who rarely consumed such foods.

A similar pattern was seen in mortality risk for particular conditions, including cancer, and heart and respiratory conditions, according to the research, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

As with any such study, researchers couldn't prove it was the spicy food that was lowering people's risk.

Some expert commentators have wondered whether it might be the foods consumed with the chilli, or some other lifestyle factor associated

with chilli-eating. For example, those who ate the most spicy food were more likely to live in rural areas.

Dr Nita Forouhi, from the Medical Research Council's epidemiology unit at the University of Cambridge, said that while the findings should only be considered "hypothesis generating" rather than conclusive, debate and research into spicy food was certainly "hotting up".

"Many potential benefits have been suggested for chilli or its bioactive compound capsaicin," she said in a BMJ editorial, among them antimicrobial, anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-cancer properties.

However, none of these findings have yet been tested in a "systematic appraisal" of spicy food -- the kind of study which could now be warranted, Dr Forouhi said.

Capsaicin is a compound in chilli peppers that causes a burning sensation when it comes into contact with mucous membranes -- and causes the sensation of spiciness in food.

It has also been linked to anti-obesity effects, and with beneficial impacts on the bacteria in our gut.

		<p style="text-align: center;">ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD (An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">Memo No- DPDC/PD(PPMP-5NOCS)/2015/11</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">Date: 04/08/2015</p>				
“TIME EXTENSION NOTICE OF DPDC’S INTERNATIONAL TENDER”						
The tender submission/opening date of the following tender is hereby extended as shown below:						
Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of the Tender	Last date of Selling Tender		Tender Submission/opening date	
			Previous	Extended	Previous	Extended
01.	DPDC/PD(PPMP-5 NOCS)/2015/01, date: 14/06/2015	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Prepaid Meters at NOCS Khilgaon, Kazla, Razarbag, Tejgaon & Swamibag with Related Service on TurnKey Basis	11/08/2015	13/09/2015	Submission: 12/08/2015, 12:00 Noon Opening: 12/08/2015 03:00PM	Submission: 14/09/2015, 12:00 Noon Opening: 14/09/2015 03:00PM
<p style="text-align: right;">Md. Geas Uddin Joarder Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Prepayment Metering Project for 5 NOCS Division under DPDC</p>						