

The way

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start saying their “unscheduled” prayers that continue for an “unusually” long period, without taking permission from the judge, he added.
In many cases, their lawyers also remain absent. When the time comes for the defence to cross-examine the witnesses, the judge finds no one and is forced to complete the procedure later.

These are common scenes at the hearings in the August 21 grenade attack cases, and many of the accused are employing these tactics apparently to delay the trial, added the lawyer.

Twenty-four people were killed in a grisly grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004. The cases were filed soon after.

Of the 52 accused, some 34, including the then home minister Lutfozzaman Babar, BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu, Huji leaders Mufti Hannan and Moulana Sheikh Farid, and the then senior officials of Criminal Investigation Department Ruhul Amin and Munshi Atiqur Rahman, appear before the speedy trial tribunal, which is trying the cases, in Old Dhaka.

On a given date, the court usually sits in the morning.
Coming to the courtroom, the accused take their designated seats, and immediately start these “unusual” activities with an obvious air of non-chalance, said court sources.

Take Lutfozzaman Babar for an example.

He brings at least 10 newspapers with him to the courtroom. He at first goes through the papers, although reading newspapers during trial proceedings is prohibited, said another lawyer.

Around 11:30am, the former minister goes to the back of the courtroom and starts saying his “unscheduled” prayers, without taking permission from the judge.

In many cases, his lawyer was absent and the judge found no one in his defence when it was needed, obstructing the trial, said the lawyer.

Many other accused were doing the same as Babar, according to court sources.

The sources also said the accused had been resorting to these tactics in almost every hearing apparently to interrupt the trial.

“Though it is not the time for any scheduled prayers, yet they say prayers. Because they want to waste time,” said a lawyer, preferring anonymity.

“Nobody dares to say anything since it’s a religious matter,” he added.

Parrot detained

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the pet to “hurl obscenities” at her.
The woman who complained, Janabai Sakharikar, obviously felt the parrot, Hariyal, had been trained to bad mouth her as it was owned by her stepson, Suresh.

“I am being harassed for the last two years. On seeing me, the parrot uses bad language and foul words. That is why I have complained thrice in the last two years. Police called me, Suresh and the parrot to the police station. Police should investigate and seize the parrot,” said Janabai.

Police decided to call in all three parties, including the parrot. However, the parrot reportedly remained silent while in police custody and did not swear at Janabai in front of the officers.

“There is a dispute over land and property between the woman and her stepson. We watched the parrot carefully but it did not utter a word at the police station after being confronted by the complainant,” the local police Inspector told reporters.

As there is no law to imprison a parrot, the police officials later handed it over to the forest department officials.

S Africa

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and for this, they want to sign an extradition treaty with us,” the home minister said, adding, “We have exchanged information and other documents for the next course of measure to this end.”

During the meeting, Asaduzzaman told the South African deputy minister that a terrorist was always a terrorist wherever he stayed. Agreeing on this, Mfeketo stressed on signing an extradition treaty with Bangladesh.

The South African deputy minister informed Asaduzzaman that some 2.5 lakh Bangladeshis are living in her country.

On August 19, 2014, the Interpol informed Bangladesh Police that Maulana Tajuddin was staying in South Africa. The Interpol has also issued a red alert against Tajuddin as a most wanted criminal.

Another key accused in the cases, BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, now living in London, was also wanted by the International Police Organisation. Besides, Tajuddin’s brother, detained former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, is also an accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Probir Sikdar freed

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of the minister through a Facebook post.

In the post, Probir expressed fear for his life, saying that the minister, controversial businessman Moosa bin Shamsher and condemned fugitive war criminal Abul Kalam Azad would be responsible if he were killed.

Local Awami League leader Swapan Kumar Paul, also assistant public prosecutor of Faridpur Judge’s Court, filed the case, saying the post tarnished the minister’s image.

On Sunday evening, Probir was arrested from his office on the capital’s Indira Road. Two days later, the First Cognisance Court of Faridpur granted remand for the ailing journalist.

After producing Probir before Senior Judicial Magistrate Hamidul Islam’s court around 11:00am yesterday, police said they no more needed to interrogate him.

Sub-Inspector Monir Hossain, also the investigation officer of the case, said they had already “gleaned sufficient information from the accused.”

Then Probir’s counsel Ali Ashraf Nannu submitted a bail petition. The plaintiff lawyers didn’t oppose the prayer, as instructed by the minister, court sources said.

After hearing the plea, the court granted Probir, editor of Bangla daily Bangla 71 and online news portal u71news.com, an ad-interim bail till September 22 upon a bond of Tk 5,000.

Contacted, Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain told The Daily Star: “He [Probir] is ill. As his wife over the phone sought cooperation from me, I asked the [plaintiff] lawyers not to oppose any bail petition, if filed.”

Probir’s wife Anita Sikdar, however, said: “After coming to court this morning, a man, possibly some minister, called me over the phone of a police officer, and said that he was working for my husband’s release. I thanked him for that.”

She claimed that she could not recognise the caller.

Probir’s lawyer Nannu said, “During the hearing, we made the court convinced that he [Probir] wouldn’t flee anywhere if the bail is granted not only because he is crippled but also because he’s a member of a martyred family, and an idealist journalist and teacher.”

Probir lost his father and several other family members during the 1971 war.

In 2001, he wrote a series of reports titled “Sei Razakar” in Bangla daily Janakantha, revealing specific details of war crimes by some people includ-

ing Moosa bin Shamsher and Abul Kalam Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, during the Liberation War.

After the reports were published, he was attacked in April that year. He lost a leg and also the mobility of one hand in the attack.

The arrest of journalist Probir, also a Liberation War researcher, created a huge stir among the people. Many labelled this incident as an abuse of power by the LGRD minister.

DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG: PROBIR

Talking to The Daily Star last night after his release, Probir Sikdar said he hadn't made any mistake by posting the status on Facebook.

"I went to everybody. But none responded to my plea. Who should I turn to? Getting no alternative, I resorted to Facebook to let people know of my fear for life.

He said the police did not record his general diary but arrested him even before the case was filed. "Isn't it a maltreatment of law? Will the law always favour the influential?"

"Under pressure, I had to tell police that posting the status was a mistake. I also had told the court about the pressure," he added.

Though Probir was released on bail, the case was not dropped.

"I am not sure if it was a strategy to mitigate the mass uproar that followed my arrest," the journalist said, adding: "I still feel threatened."

PROTESTS ON
Earlier in the day, aggrieved journalists observed a token hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Eminent citizens expressed solidarity with them.

Speaking there, historian Prof Muntassir Mamoon demanded security for and compensation to Probir's family. "If any influential person of the government, no matter how influential, sides with the war criminals, we will resist it."

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said, "The way he [Probir] was arrested goes completely against the norms of a democratic state."

Executive President of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir said: "Why those, against whom Probir had written, didn't file the case? It's because they knew that there's nothing false in what he has been writing for around 20 years."

Protest programmes were held in some other places of the country as well.

Meanwhile, Lord Avebury, vice chair of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group

on Human Rights, has expressed his concern at Probir Sikdar's arrest.

"As a friend of Bangladesh, I was deeply concerned about the detention of the eminent journalist Probir Sikdar and allegations of his ill treatment and threats made against him in Faridpur Sadar Police Station. I respectfully suggest that the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission should conduct an inquiry into these events, which I have reported to the international Committee to Protect Journalists," he said in a statement issued before the journalist's release.

Bomber part

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"We believe there must be people helping him, Thai people," Somyot told reporters, referring to the prime suspect.

The attack occurred on Monday evening as worshippers and tourists crowded into the Erawan shrine in Bangkok's commercial heart, shredding bodies and incinerating motorcycles.

At least 13 foreigners were killed, from China, Hong Kong, Britain, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

Another 68 people remained in hospital yesterday, 12 of whom were in critical conditions.

The shrine, a popular tourist attraction that typifies the kingdom's unusual blend of Hindu and Buddhist traditions, reopened yesterday morning with a ceremony led by chanting monks.

Its surroundings had been largely restored and the pools of congealed blood scrubbed away.

Twisted iron railings were the only immediate sign of the blast point, which police believe was caused by a bomb made up of three kilogrammes of high explosives.

The police sketch of the suspected bomber showed him with black-rimmed glasses, a full head of dark hair and a light complexion.

Police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri said his features were gleaned partly from security footage taken of him at the shrine in the minutes before the attack.

That footage, released to the public on Tuesday, showed him wearing a bright yellow T-shirt and dark shorts, walking into the shrine with a backpack.

He casually placed the backpack underneath a bench and then slowly walked away clutching a blue plastic bag while looking at what appeared to be a smartphone.

Cheaper way to treat

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Bubbles are created in the bottle, which then put backpressure on lungs, thus creating continuous positive airway pressure, said the scientist at the Centre for Nutrition and Food Security of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Control, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

With the continuous bubble pressure, a child's lung opens and his/her collapsed tissues get active, increasing the chances of the their survival, he added.

Famous medical journal, The Lancet, published an article on Bubble CPAP for children with severe pneumonia and hypoxaemia in Bangladesh: an open, randomised controlled trial on Tuesday.

Scientists at the icddr,b and the Centre for International Child Health at the University of Melbourne conducted the research in Dhaka between August 2011 and July 2013.

The random trial was conducted on 225 children. Of them, 79 received oxygen therapy by Bubble CPAP, 67 low-flow oxygen therapy, and 79 high-flow oxygen therapy that is an expensive treatment used mostly in developed nations.

Significantly, fewer children in the Bubble CPAP group had treatment failure and deaths than the low-flow

oxygen therapy group, said Dr Chisti, lead scientist and author of the research. On the other hand, the success rates in the Bubble CPAP group and the high-flow oxygen therapy group were very close.

Dr Chisti explained that Bubble CPAP is not something new globally. It is used in the developed countries to treat newborns, but the equipment they use is very expensive.

"Our research, however, focused on children under five, not only newborns. Also, we used cheap equipment," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

A circuit, a bottle and a small piece of pipe cost no more than Tk 50 in Bangladesh and US\$100 in a developed country.

"Icddr,b's study is the first in a developing country to trial the effectiveness of a cheaper version of Bubble-CPAP at reducing mortality and treatment failure for the children under five with severe pneumonia and hypoxemia," said Dr Chisti.

The new method can be used in other hospitals in the country and in other countries having high child mortality rates because of pneumonia, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia, he added.

Khaleda slams

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shunning its “repressive acts and politics of vengeance”.

In a statement, Khaleda also said her party, if it returns to power, would never choose the path of political vengeance and give priority to upholding the spirit of national unity.

The BNP chief alleged that the government, after assuming power through the January-5 “one sided and voter less” polls, had destroyed all the democratic institutions only to cling on to power. “The entire nation is under the grasp of its misuse.”

“We are disheartened over the 86-year-old veteran popular leader and BNP standing committee member MK Anwar being sent to jail when he surrendered before a court, despite having bail from the High Court, showing respect to the law in a false case filed in Comilla,” she said.

“The government’s such attitude towards a respected and elderly poli-

tician of the country is a proof of its intolerance. It’s nothing but the abuse of power.”

On Tuesday, a Comilla court sent Anwar, also a former minister and cabinet secretary, to jail rejecting his bail petition in a case filed in connection with a petrol bomb attack on a bus in Choudhogram upazila on February 3.

Khaleda also strongly protested and condemned the arrest of Shawkat Mahmud, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists.

She alleged that the government arrested him to stop his strong voice against the government’s “plot” to politicise the Jatiya Press Club.

Plainclothes police on Tuesday arrested Shawkat as he came to attend a programme of pro-BNP professionals’ platform Adarsha Dhaka Andolan at Samarai Convention Centre on Panthapath in the city.

AL man killed in Kushtia

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League, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

Sabbir Ul Alam, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of police, said the “gunfight” took place at Jagati area of Kushtia Sadar upazila around 1:30am.

Police conducted a drive in the area after being tipped off that a gang of criminals was holding a secret meeting there. Sensing the law enforcers’ presence, the gang opened fire on them, forcing police to fire back triggering a gun battle, he claimed.

Zakir was found lying on the spot while the others managed to flee the scene. He was taken to Kushtia General Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

A homemade gun, three bullets, and sharp weapons were recovered from the spot, and five policemen were injured during the gunfight, the OC claimed.

Apart from being an accused in the August 15 infighting that left BCL activist Sabuj Hossain dead, Zakir was also an accused in another murder case filed with the local police station.

On August 15, two groups of Awami League supporters in Kushtia clashed over paying tribute to Bangabandhu on the National Mourning Day, leaving Sabuj dead on the spot.

Sohel Reza, additional superintendent of police in Kushtia, said Zakir had records of arms smuggling through Kushtia’s border with India.

Meanwhile, rights body Ain O Salish Kendra yesterday in a statement expressed grave concern over the law enforcers’ tendency to contain criminal activities through “extrajudicial killings”.

ASK Director Noor Khan alleged that some ruling party activists have been victims of the so-called “gunfights”.

“Law enforcers do this to make the stories of gunfights more credible,” he said.

According to ASK, 72 people were killed in “crossfire” between law enforcers and alleged criminals in the first six months of this year.

According to reports published in this newspaper, 20 people were killed in “gunfights” or “shootouts” between July 1 and August 18.

Meanwhile, Home Minister

Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday at a programme in the capital said, “Rab says it’s a gunfight, police says it’s a gunfight. Among these, we are looking into the Hazaribagh incident.”

The home boss added that the prime minister had given the message much earlier that no criminals would be spared.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday at a programme at the Jatiya Press Club said no one would be able to escape after committing a crime.

“If someone supports a party, s/he must follow its rules. Violation of rules through infightings and killings will not be allowed,” he said.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh Chhatra League’s Hazaribagh Thana unit leader Arzu Miah was killed in a “gunfight” between his cohorts and Rab members in the capital’s Hazaribagh. On the same day, former BCL leader Mehedi Hasan Ajibor, who was an accused in a case over the July 23 shooting in Magura, was killed in another “gun battle” between his accomplices and police in the district town.

3 lawyers held

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with a case filed with Banshkhali Police Station following the recovery of Shaheed Hamja Brigade’s arms and ammunition on February 21.

The three were shown arrested in the case before they were produced before the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Sajjad Hossain.

Contacted, Superintendent of Supreme Court Bar Association Nimesh Chandra Das told The Daily Star that only Shakila was a listed lawyer of the SCBA.

SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain and General Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon in a joint statement denounced the arrest of Shakila and said she had been engaged in the profession with good reputation.

“She was arrested in a false case to defame her politically and socially as well as to harass her,” the statement said demanding her immediate release.

The statement did not mention anything about the other two.

The Rab-7 CO said the trio deposited Tk 1.08 crore out of Tk 1.38 crore they had collected for the Brigade.

He said Rab men got the infor-

mation of financing the Brigade following confessional statements of key members of the outfit arrested earlier, including Moniruzzaman Mojumder Don.

The Rab-7 boss said Don admitted that the three lawyers’ deposited the money for the outfit.

Rab later checked the money transfer documents through Bangladesh Bank and confirmed the authenticity of Don’s claim.

Of the money, Shakila deposited Tk 52 lakh in cash in two instalments, Liton Tk 31 lakh and Bapon Tk 25 lakh, said the Rab-7 CO.

Assistant Director Media of Rab Chittagong Sohel Mahmud said Shakila had confessed during primary interrogation about her depositing the money.

The outfit’s mastermind, known as “Boro Bhai”, is yet to be arrested. Besides, a foreign financier named Allama Libbdi of Dubai, who joined several meetings of the militant group, is also out of trace.

The Rab-7 commanding officer said they were trying to arrest everyone involved in the group.

Quoting members of the militant organisation, he said it has plans to conduct their activities

under the non-government organisation “Love for Rohingyas”.


The outfit usually lures members by showing religious people “images and footages of defamation of the Quran” and “repression” of the Rohingya Muslims and ask them to join “jihad”, he added.

He further said many members of the group also came from Jamaat-Shibir and Hefajat-e Islam, a Chittagong-based madrasa organisation.

On February 19, Rab first raided “Al Madrasatul Abu Baka”, a training centre for the militants of the outfit. After two days, a military training camp was discovered in Banshkhali upazila. In a drive a week later, Rab recovered a good number of arms and ammunition from the outfit’s alleged arms stash in Halishahar of the port city.

A total of 29 members of the alleged militant group have been arrested in eight drives so far and all of them except one gave confessional statements, Lt Col Miftah said.

Moreover, 25 modern firearms, 4,443 bullets, 76 powerful bombs, 150 kilogrammes of explosives, other materials to make more than two thousand bombs, and training

<div><div>Bangladesh Krishi Bank Head Office Estate & Engineering Department 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000</div></div>					
Tender Notice				Date: 18.08.2015	
Memo No. HO/Engg.2/(138)/2015-16/					
01.	Procuring entity name	:	Bangladesh Krishi Bank.		
02.	Invitation for	:	Re-Construction of Boundary wall & renovation of other works at BKB, Gunakorkhathi Bazar Branch at Satkhira Region.		
03.	Invitation Ref. No.	:	30/2015-2016.		
04.	Procuring method	:	Open Tendering Method.		
05.	Budget & source of fund	:	Own Source.		
06.	Project/program name	:	Re-Construction of Boundary wall & renovation of other works at BKB, Gunakorkhathi Bazar Branch at Satkhira Region.		
07.	Tender last selling date	:	10.09.2015 up to 3.00pm.		
08.	Tender closing date & time	:	13.09.2015 at 12.10pm.		
09.	Tender opening date & time	:	13.09.2015 at 12.30pm.		
10.	Name & address of the office				
	-Selling tender	:	Estate & Engineering Department(8th Floor), BKB, Head Office, Dhaka.		
	-Receiving tender document	:	Estate & Engineering Department(8th Floor), BKB, Head Office, Dhaka.		
11.	Eligibility of tenderers	:	a) Those who are enlisted in govt./semi-govt./autonomous body/banking sector had successfully completed similar works at least worth Tk. 8.00 (eight) lakh in a single instance over the last 5 years; they will be able to submit the tender. b) Tender must be submitted with attested copies of the valid trade license, up-to-date income tax certificate, up-to-date enlistment certificate, work order and successfully completion certificate at least worth Tk. 8.00 (eight) lakh in a single instance over the last 5 years from any govt./semi-govt./autonomous body/banking sector by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer. c) All other qualifications will be applicable as specified in Tender Data Sheet.		
12.	Brief description of works:				
Sl. No.	Description of work	Location	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Tender security amount (refundable)	Completion time
1	Re-Construction of Boundary wall & Renovation of other works	Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Gunakorkhathi Bazar Branch at Satkhira Region	Tk. 1000/- (one thousand).	Tk. 25,000/- (twenty-five thousand) as DD/PO from any Branch of Bangladesh Krishi Bank in favour of Estate & Engineering Department, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, Dhaka	60 (sixty) days
13.	Name & designation of official inviting tender with address	:	Md. A. H. Faruque Deputy General Manager, Estate & Engineering Department (8th Floor), BKB, Head Office, Dhaka.		
14.	Contact details of official inviting tender	:	Telephone: 9552995 PABX: 9560021/254 E-mail: dgmengineering@krishibank.org.bd Website: www.krishibank.org.bd		
15.	Special instructions	:	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or to reduce the scope of the requirements for the concerned procurement without assigning any reason whatsoever. b) Tenders will be opened in presence of the tenderer/representative (if any). c) The tender notice will also be found in our website. d) Under any unavoidable circumstances if the tender documents selling, receiving and opening are disrupted the next working days and time will be applicable for the same respectively.		
<div>Md. A.H. Faruque Deputy General Manager Estate & Engineering Department (8th Floor) BKB, Head Office, Dhaka</div>					
GD-2748					