

# It's never too

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which was their 80th wedding anniversary.

Pictures from the photoshoot shows Li wearing a white wedding dress with a sequin and beaded top while Song wears a red Changshan, a traditional Chinese dress.

They were helped by dozens of volunteers who wanted to make their wish come true.

The pair have six children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and all four generations live under the same roof.

The couple have been praised for their long lasting marriage on social media site QQ.com.

One user wrote: "To tell you the truth, I did not see that they are 100, they are old but I still really wish them health and longevity."

While another wrote: "Really happy that they have lived so long!" And one user said: "The two of them are so cute!"

This couple aren't the only pair to have a long lasting marriage. On July 6 it was reported that a devoted couple had been with each other for 96 years.

The 103-year-old wife moved in with her 102-year-old husband when she was just six-years-old after her parents died.

The woman followed a traditional arrangement which meant she was adopted by another family and would later marry one of the sons in the family.

They are never seen apart from each other.

# A friend of Nibras

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café attackers, police said.

Shazad, an MBA student of North South University (NSU), also had US citizenship, according to police.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the police's claim.

Sources in the Detective Branch of police said they matched Shazad's fingerprint with that on his national identity card.

Shazad's father Touhid Rouf of the capital's Baridhara area had filed a general dairy with Bhatara Police Station on February 6 after the family failed to find Shazad, Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman of Bhatara Police Station told The Daily Star.

He claimed that Nibras and Shazad were of NSU and friends.

THE CASE  
On February 9, Abul Bashar, sub-inspector of the Detective Branch (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act against 12 people for conspiring to commit subversive activities.

According to the case document, on that day police conducted a drive in Shahbagh area on information that some militants were plotting to carry out subversive activities.

Police arrested three suspects and learnt from them that their nine accomplices managed to escape, it read.

The names of the nine suspects, including Shazad (Shezad as mentioned in the document), Nibras Islam and Tawfif Hossain, were mentioned as suspects without addresses.

SM Raisul Islam, investigation officer of the case, told this newspaper yesterday that Ahmed Shammur Raihan alias Chiller, 23, was one of the three arrestees. During interrogation, he told police that Shazad was his cousin.

Shammur is out on bail since April 19. Raisul said according to the information they had gathered, Nibras and Tawfif studied at Monash University in Malaysia and were friends.

Nibras and Tawfif went missing from Dhaka on February 3. Tawfif's father Ajmal Hossain filed a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station on that day, the police officer added.

About a media report that Nibras, Tawfif and Shazad were friends, Raisul said, "I also learnt it from the media but I am not sure about it."

FATHER TRIES TO IDENTIFY BODY  
After seeing photographs of the bodies of suspects on social media and on a news portal run by Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Shazad's father Touhid contacted the DMP, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Media) of DMP told reporters.

Since Touhid said one of the nine killed looked like his missing son, the DMP asked him to visit Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Touhid, his two relatives and a representative of the US embassy in Dhaka visited the morgue around 3:30pm.

"Looking at the bodies, he [Touhid] said one of the bodies looked like of his son but he was not sure," said Sohel Mahmud, assistant professor of forensic medicine department of the DMC, who had done the autopsies.

"We suggested DNA profiling for confirmation," he told reporters.

When journalists approached the visitors, Touhid and the three others did not say anything.

However, sources in the Detective Branch of Police say that they are sure that it is Shazad's body.

Police yesterday disclosed the identities of seven, including Shazad, of the nine killed on July 26.

# Keep watch

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About the proposals of the DCs, Nahid said they told him that many educational institutions do not maintain accounts of their income and expenditure, which could pave the way for irregularities.

They also informed that coaching centres run by teachers had mushroomed across the country, and students were becoming dependent on them.

The minister assured the civil bureaucrats that a process was underway for an education act and once the law is enacted, it would oblige educational institutions to keep accounts of their earnings and expenditures.

The act will also lay the legal grounds to curb the growth of coaching centres, Nahid said.

DARUL IHSAN UNIVERSITY  
Regarding the shutting down of the private university, Nahid told reporters that its students can claim compensation from the university authority as the government ordered it to close all academic activities.

The authority has to take the responsibility. The students can claim at least Tk 5 lakh in compensation so that they can get admission to another university, the education minister said.

The government will help the students who demand compensation, he added.

A government committee following a probe into the allegations of certificate trade, ownership dispute and other irregularities against the Darul Ihsan University recommended shutting down of the university in 2013.

Nahid yesterday said the university had violated laws and that's why the problem arose.

The university opened up several branches and was involved in "selling certificates", he said, adding that his ministry had tried to shut it down, but the authority continued the operation by securing a stay order from the High Court.

Finally, the HC ruled against it, he said.

Following the HC verdict, the ministry on Monday issued a circular

# India sending

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Change said on Tuesday that they had received the political clearance for the visit by an expert team to Bangladesh.

The chief wildlife warden of Assam is trying to get visa for members of the team.

Project Elephant director RK Srivastava told PTI that it was decided to send the rescue team to Bangladesh on August 3 for rescuing the animal but it would depend on factors like weather condition.

"The Project Elephant division of the ministry is constantly in touch with the Bangladesh forest department, chief wildlife wardens of Assam and Meghalaya and other relevant agencies to rescue the stranded elephant and bring it back to India," he said.

The Bangladesh forest department is constantly tracking the movement of the stranded elephant, the official said.

On June 27, it was reported that a wild female elephant was separated from its herd in Assam and floated along with the currents of the Brahmaputra river into Bangladesh.

In search of food, the pachyderm is now reportedly in conflict with villagers living in those regions.

"The elephant has reportedly become feeble due to lack of food so her rescue at the earliest is necessary to prevent further distress to her as well as the locals living in the region," Humane Society International, an animal rights NGO, had said in a statement recently.

# 49 back home from US

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The Bangladeshis reached Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by a special US airline flight around 3:00am, said Kamal Uddin, 40, one of the returnees.

The US police interrogated them several times and contacted the Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC. All the Bangladeshis sought political asylum in the US, said Kamal, from Noakhali.

However, this correspondent could not communicate with the embassy for its comments.

The US courts held hearings to settle the issue and finally rejected their appeals and ordered them to be sent back home last year.

Contacted, Ann B McConnell, public affairs officer for the US embassy in Dhaka, told The Daily Star via an e-mail that the US Department of Homeland Security is the lead US government agency on deportation and asylum.

"While I cannot comment on specific cases, I would like to affirm our understanding that the cases you [this correspondent] are referring to were handled appropriately under the US law," the official added.

"The individuals were afforded due process under the US judicial system. The people involved were afforded numerous procedural protections, including but not limited to, the right

ordering closure of the private university. It also instructed other private universities to shut down illegal branch campuses.

DCS' MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS  
Deputy commissioners were asked to show "zero tolerance" against militancy and terrorism, and create public awareness against fundamentalism.

Several ministers came up with the directives yesterday when they held separate meetings with the DCs.

Talking to reporters after a meeting, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed said he instructed the DCs to set up anti-terrorist units in every district involving common people so that militancy cannot grow.

Referring to the killings of nine militants in Kalyanpur early Tuesday, he said such steps by the members of law enforcement agencies would help restore confidence among businessmen and foreigners.

LGRD Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain asked the DCs to maintain law and order in their districts and take appropriate measures so that terrorist activities could not take place.

Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali directed the DCs to resolve disputes along the border with India and Myanmar. He also asked them not to do anything that would affect relations with the neighbouring countries.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya instructed the DCs to send relief materials to the flood-affected people in 11 districts.

At a meeting with the power, energy and mineral resources minister, the DCs were asked to ensure adequate security at the power plants and take steps to disconnect illegal electricity and gas lines.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader asked the DCs to take steps to stop plying of three-wheelers on 22 highways. They were also asked to evict all illegal structures along roads and highways.

# Jamaat leader

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militant," he told this correspondent before leaving for Dhaka. Earlier in the morning, Qaiyum informed Shudharam Police Station of the matter and sought their help in taking his son's body.

The 20-year-old youth was a second-year student of political science at Noakhali Government College, but he was irregular in his class. On June 15, he went missing.

Jubayer was an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, his father said.

"I failed to stop him from joining Shibir," said Qaiyum, who worked as a driver of a local biscuit company.

Qaiyum blamed his nephew, Mohammad Ali alias Bahadur, a rukon (member) of local Jamaat, for instigating his son to become a militant.

Jubayer used to offer prayers regularly since his childhood. As he grew up, Bahadur started influencing him, claimed the father.

He said his son used to study at Al-Faruk Academy, an institution considered to be run by Jamaat.

"As I sensed that my son may turn towards the politics of Jamaat if he continues his studies at the institution, I changed his school and got him enrolled in class-VI at Noakhali Zila School," Qaiyum said.

"But I couldn't save him," he said, adding that his son and Bahadur went missing with Bahadur.

He filed a general diary with Shudharam Police Station on July 12.

AKM Jahirul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Noakhali, said police suspected Jubayer became a militant and were searching him.

# to be represented by an attorney, to contest any charges of deportation, and to present evidence and to examine any evidence against them," the official further mentioned.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kamal said he along with two other Bangladeshis left for the United States, the world's largest economy, on July 20, 2014.

The cheated jobseekers had to pay minimum Tk 10 to 30 lakh each to the brokers who were mainly Bangladeshis based in different countries.

"One Dulal of Noakhali promised me to arrange a good job for me in America. The broker told me to go to Brazil where he was staying. Then I decided to leave the country," Kamal mentioned.

He first went to Dubai, then to Bolivia where he got two others from Sylhet. Later, he found another two -- Sagor and Hasan from Noakhali -- after reaching Mexico.

Finally, they in a group of seven people, including Africans, entered the US through the Mexico border on October 5, 2014.

They were caught by the US immigration police and sent to a detention centre in California where they had to spend 23 months before returning home.

Contacted, Bangladesh immigration police said they didn't have any information about the return of the Bangladeshis.

# OC Helal's

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in torture of the student.

On May 17, 2015, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Alamgir Kabir Raj handed down the sentence in Helal's absence and fined the convict Tk 10,000, in default of which he has to spend three more months in jail. The court on May 31, 2015, sent Helal to jail on surrender.

In the early hours of July 16, 2011, some plainclothes policemen from Khilgaon Police Station stopped Kader at Segunbagicha while he was returning to his dormitory Fazul Huq Hall from a relative's house in capital's Eskaton area.

They beat Kader, then a DU student of biochemistry and molecular biology, with sticks, according to the statement of the case filed by Kader in January 2012.

Later police implicated Kader in three false cases filed with Mohammadpur and Khilgaon police stations. But following media outcry, the High Court on July 28, 2011, ordered the police to probe into the incident.

Three officials of Khilgaon Police Station, including officer-in-charge Helal, were suspended and Kader was released on bail on August 3, 2011. He was acquitted of all the charges in 2012. Then he sued Helal on January 23, 2012, for torturing him and filing the false cases against him.

While talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Kader expressed his satisfaction over the judgment.

He said some policemen like Helal are tarnishing the image of the police force.

"I believe the bad cops will learn a lesson from the judgment that if they do wrongs they will be punished," he said.

He expressed gratitude to the media for unearthing the truth.

# Instigators

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(UGC) Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan said imams should deliver anti-terror khutbas (sermons) during Juma prayer to raise awareness among people.

Education Secretary Sohorab Hossain said teachers must maintain one to one communication with each student to know about them and their movements, which will be one of the major ways to prevent children and youths from being involved with militancy.

Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman said awareness among guardians and teachers is the prime requisite to combat terrorism.

Presiding over the function, Prof Muhammad Ahsan Ullah, vice-chancellor of Islamic Araviv University, asked the madrasa teachers to follow all the university directives to combat militancy and terrorism.

The university on July 18 issued eight-point directives that include strengthening surveillance on students and ensuring their class attendance. Several senior officials of the education ministry spoke at the function.

# Kerry: US avoiding 'confrontation' in sea row

AFP, Manila

US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday said Washington wanted to avoid "confrontation" in the South China Sea, after an international tribunal rejected Beijing's claims to most of the waters.

Kerry made the remarks after meeting with Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay in Manila where they discussed the Southeast Asian nation's sweeping victory in the arbitration case against China.

America's top diplomat said the United States wanted China and the Philippines to engage in talks and "confidence-building measures".

"The decision itself is a binding decision but we're not trying to create a confrontation. We are trying to create a solution mindful of the rights of people established under the law," Kerry said.

A tribunal based in The Hague this month ruled that China's claim to most of the strategic waterway was inconsistent with international law. The decision angered Beijing, which vowed to ignore the ruling.

But Kerry said the United States saw an "opportunity" for claimants to peacefully resolve the row.

"We hope to see a process that will narrow the geographic scope of the maritime disputes, set standards for behaviour in contested areas, lead to mutually acceptable solutions, perhaps even a series of confidence-building steps," he said.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims to the South China Sea, a vital waterway through which \$5 trillion in annual trade passes. It is also believed to sit atop vast reserves of oil and gas.

Kerry, who arrived in Manila on Tuesday after attending a regional summit in Laos, met with new Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

# PM slams BNP

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militants? This is my question. Is there any secrecy? Are they involved in any conspiracy?"

The premier said BNP Vice-chairman Shah Moazzem Hossain and standing committee member Hannan Shah on Tuesday expressed doubt whether the dead were indeed militants.

"They also compared the Gulshan incident with this operation. No sane person can make comparisons between the two incidents," Hasina added.

The leader of the House said when the government was trying hard to contain militancy, the BNP was trying to call police force's efforts into question by raising such questions.

Referring to recent terrorist attacks in Germany, the US, France and Japan, the premier said terrorists were either killed by law enforcers on the spot or they committed suicide. "This rule is followed whenever there is any operation against militants."

The militants in Kalyanpur and Gulshan used similar bags and wore identical outfits and "pagri" (scarf), she added.

SESSION ENDS  
The budget session of the 10th parliament was prorogued last night.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury read out the president's prorogation order. The session which had 32 sittings saw passing of the national budget for 2016-17 fiscal and 16 bills as well.

The 11th session of the Jatiya Sangsad began on June 1. The proposed national budget was placed in the House on June 2 and passed on June 30.

A total of 246 lawmakers took part in the general discussion on the proposed budget for around 61 hours.

QUESTION-ANSWER SESSION  
The PM during her question-answer session warned that those spurring terrorists and militants will have to face legal actions.

The government was extensively monitoring the contents of the print and electronic media to see if those encouraged terrorists indirectly, she told parliament.

Terrorism and militancy have now spread across the world like a disease, she said, adding the Gulshan attack tainted the country's image.

"These elements have been destroying the image of the holy religion Islam which is the religion of peace."

She said some BNP leaders' remarks over the recent militant attacks and the police operation in Kalyanpur indicated the party was "patronising and encouraging" militancy and terrorism.

"Naturally, people might think they [BNP leaders] are the patrons of militants and terrorists.... They are patronising and encouraging this," she said in reply to a supplementary question from Awami League lawmaker Dipu Moni.

The police and other law enforcement agencies took prompt actions to combat militants when they were ready to carry out another attack, mentioned Hasina.

"The police played a courageous role in combatting militants. I think this is just a blessing from Allah that the country and the nation averted another accident," she added.

Following the July 1 Gulshan cafe attack, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had called for forging a national unity to rid the country from militancy.

In the aftermath of the July 7 terrorist attack at Sholakia of Kishoreganj, Khaleda and some top BNP leaders demanded the government step down for its "failure" to tackle militancy and terrorism in the country.

The PM said the BNP leaders' statements made it clear that they were setting conditions for ending mili-

tancy.

"They say 'do this; otherwise terrorism and militancy won't end'. It means they would stop these activities if their conditions were met."

Urging people to be aware of it, the PM said the menace will be fought by making united efforts. "That unity has already been forged."

5.50 LAKH POSTS CREATED  
In a scripted answer to a lawmaker's query, the premier informed the House that over 5.50 lakh posts have been created under the government's various ministries, divisions and departments since 2009 and recruitment against these posts is underway.

The government has recruited 17,860 officers so far in different cadres through 28th-33rd Bangladesh Civil Service exams since 2009. Bangladesh Public Service Commission recommended appointing 2,175 officers through the 33rd BCS exams, she said.

# He left

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But Rashid, son of Rabiul Haque in the capital's Dhanmondi area, turned out to be a militant, according to police.

He was one of the nine militants who were killed during a law enforcers' raid at a militant den in the capital's Kalyanpur on Tuesday morning, police said.

Police and neighbours said Rashid was a student of North South University. But The Daily Star could not independently verify it.

After police disclosed identities and addresses of seven of the nine militants yesterday, this correspondent went to his house in Dhanmondi.

Alamgir Hossain, manager of the building, said Rabiul was not in his house and her wife and other family members were not in a condition to talk to journalists.

The Daily Star, however, talked to two residents of the building to collect information about Rashid.

MA Jalil, general secretary of flat owners' association of the building, told The Daily Star that Rabiul has been living in the building for over one and a half decades.

Jalil said he did not know that Rashid went missing. But, he came to know about the matter yesterday morning when he went to Rabiul's flat to ask him why the law enforcers went there on Tuesday night.

Then, Rabiul informed him that Rashid left the house to say his prayers at a nearby mosque towards the end of January and never returned.

"When I asked him why he, despite being a conscious citizen, did not file a general diary in this regard, he told me that his son did not go missing as he [Rashid] contacted him over the phone," said Jalil.

When his father asked Rashid when he would return home, Rashid used to tell him that he was doing well and would return home someday, Jalil said quoting Rabiul.

Rashid used to offer his prayers regularly at a nearby mosque, said Jalil, adding that, Rabiul was a businessman and is now sick.

Ehsamul Azim, a next door neighbour of Rabiul, immediately identified the Rashid when this correspondent showed him Rashid's photo provided by police.

He said Rabiul returned Bangladesh around one and a half decades ago, as he didn't like the western culture and believed that their children would be "spoiled" if they grew up there.

Azim said he had a little interaction with Rashid as he seemed to be an introvert.

"His parents used to tell us that he [Rashid] worked in Chittagong," said Azim, adding that, he also came to know that Rashid "went missing" when law enforcers came to their building on Tuesday night.

# IS bomb attack

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Children could be heard screaming as smoke rose from small fires that continued to burn amongst the rubble.

Civilians and local security forces with guns slung across their backs worked to carry the dead and wounded from the remains of damaged and destroyed buildings.

REGULAR BOMBINGS  
The Islamic State group claimed the attack in a statement circulated on social media, calling it "a response to the crimes committed by the crusader coalition aircraft" in the town of Manbij, a bastion of the jihadist group in Syria's Aleppo province.

Kurdish fighters have been a key force battling the jihadists in north and northeastern Syria and are the main component in the Syrian Democratic Forces alliance currently seeking to oust IS from Manbij.

They are backed by air strikes launched by the US-led coalition fighting IS in Syria and Iraq.

Qamishli is under the shared control of the Syrian regime and Kurdish authorities, who have declared zones of "autonomous administration" across parts of north and northeast Syria.

It has regularly been targeted in bomb attacks, many of which have

been claimed by IS.

But a source in the Kurdish Asayesh security forces told AFP "this is the largest explosion the city has ever seen."

The area targeted houses several Kurdish administration buildings including the defence ministry and was considered a secure zone, with multiple checkpoints and security measures in place.

"This blast is the biggest in Qamishli in terms of both the toll and the damage since the beginning of the war," Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said.

Local officials said hospitals in the city had been swamped with casualties from the attack.

And Syrian state television carried an appeal from the governor of Hasakeh province, where Qamishli is located, urging residents to "go to public and private hospitals to donate blood for the victims of the terrorist bombings."

More than 280,000 people have been killed in Syria since the war began with anti-government protests that were met with a regime crackdown.