

DU QUESTION LEAK

Court orders arrest of 78

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for 78 of the 125 accused in a case filed over their alleged involvement in question paper leak of Dhaka University's "Gha" unit admission test in 2017.

On Sunday, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of CID Sumon Kumar Das, also investigation officer of the case, pressed charges against the 125 accused, including 87 DU students, in the case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzaman Ansary passed the order after the IO showed them "fugitives" and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants for them.

Forty-seven of the accused are now on bail.

Earlier in the day, the court accepted the charges against the accused and issued arrest warrants for 78 of them.

The court directed the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to submit by July 30 the report on execution of arrest warrants issued against the fugitives.

It also ordered the authorities to transfer the case against 39 of the 125 accused lodged under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act to the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal for its trial.

One of the accused is a juvenile and a separate charge sheet was submitted against him under the Juvenile Act.

The IO pressed charges against the 125 accused under the Public Examinations Act and against 39 of the accused under the ICT Act.

The CID had arrested 47 of the 125 suspects, including the alleged mastermind, Alip Kumar Biswas, a suspended assistant director of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), in different times and they are now on bail.

Forty-six of them have already given statements before a magistrate, confessing to their offences.

In its very first raid at two DU dormitories, the CID arrested two BCL leaders -- Mohiuddin Rana, an assistant secretary of the BCL central committee, and Abdullah Al Mamun -- theatre and debate affairs secretary of the BCL's Amar Ekushey Hall unit -- only hours before the university's "Gha" unit admission test on October 20, 2017.

Police tracked down the gang members following a series of arrests since October 2017 when investigators raided two DU dormitories hours before the "Gha" unit admission test.

Man sued for raping niece in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was sued in Chattogram yesterday on charges of raping his nine-month-old niece.

The baby, who was being treated at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, was in critical condition, according to family members.

In the statement of the case filed with Fatikhkhari Police Station, the father of the victim, a fish trader, alleged that his brother raped his daughter when there was no one else in the house in Fatikhkhari upazila, said Babul Akter, OC of the police station.

However, one of the uncles of the victim said the mother was cooking in the kitchen when the incident happened.

Hearing screams, the mother rushed to the baby. The accused fled as soon as he saw her, he said.

Relatives took the baby to the Fatikhkhari Upazila Health Complex. As her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to the CMCH. She underwent a surgery there, the uncle said, demanding justice for the child.

OC Babul said they were raiding different places to arrest the accused.

Man killed

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Although the last image of Rifat shows him bloodied, but standing, he was later pronounced dead at Barishal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSMCH) at 3:30pm.

Rifat was the only son of Abdul Halim of Boro Lobongola village in Burichar union under Barguna sadar upazila.

Immediately after the attack, locals had taken Rifat to Barguna Government College from where he was transferred to BSMCH.

Afterwards, locals and eyewitnesses identified the assailants as Nayan and Rifat Farajee. Both were engaged in various crimes such as drug dealing and mugging.

Contacted, Abir Hossain Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Barguna Police Station, said they had seen the mobile phone footage and had identified at least three attackers.

Mahmud said efforts were underway to arrest the killers, adding they had previously been arrested for other crimes.

Meanwhile, police sources said Rifat had previous enmity with Nayan.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting an exhibition titled "1889-2019: Celebrating 130 years of the Inter-Parliamentary Union" inside the parliament building yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Two recruiting agencies at loggerheads

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zone in Baridhara soon.

The recruiting agents will have to submit the documents to the centres, which will then forward those to the embassy. The centres will deliver the papers to the agents after visa stamping.

Abdul Alim, a leader of the Saudi Visa Service Centre Nirmool Committee comprising the general members of Baira, said they have no problem with the embassy opening visa centres.

But the centres will be led by two top recruiting agents -- Mohd Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Eastern Pvt Ltd, and Mohammad Abdul Hye, proprietor of Greenland Overseas. "There is a direct conflict of interest here," he said.

"The documents individual agents submit contain addresses of the employers. As the two recruiting agents will run the centres and get to know the employers' contacts, they can eventually take away other agents' business."

The service centres will charge Tk 1,100 as fees per passport but they can hike the fees whenever they want and recruiting agencies will have no say, he added.

Alim also mentioned that they submitted a memo to State Minister for Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Imran Ahmad, protesting the move.

According to the memo, Baira without seeking opinions from its general members endorsed the idea of Saudi service centres and wrote to the embassy.

The move of Noor Ali, one of the 10 recruiting agents accused of monopoly in labour recruitment in Malaysia and charging high recruitment cost between 2016 and 2018, and Abdul Hye, a cohort of Ali, will eventually lead to formation of another syndicate, it read.

Under such apprehensions, the general members of Baira held a protest meeting at a hotel on Saturday and held a human chain in front of the ministry. On Monday, they held a human chain in front of Baira office at Bangla Motor.

Also on Saturday, Baira leaders including Nur Ali and their supporters held a meeting at Dhaka Westin Hotel. Saudi Embassy's Head of Consulate Ibrahim Ali Al-Humaidhi was present there.

Speaking at the event, Ibrahim Ali said the service centres are being initiated on orders from the Saudi government.

"Soon, we are moving to our new building in a new location. At present, it is difficult to accommodate all those who come to the embassy. In the new building, our minister is not allowing this gathering."

He also said, "The Baira president is our adviser. Under his supervision,

these service centres will operate.

"There is a misunderstanding that service centres will take away your business. This is not right. They will only act as submission and delivery centres."

If the agents find any problem, they can come directly to the embassy, he said, according to a video clip of Saturday's event.

Contacted, Baira Secretary General Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman said the fear of a section of Baira members about the Saudi visa service centres is totally baseless.

First of all, he said, introducing the service centres is totally an issue of the Saudi Embassy. Neither Bangladesh government nor Baira has anything to say about it. But Baira has endorsed the idea as the embassy consulted it.

"Baira President Benjir Ahmed MP will be supervising the overall operation of the service centres. We are doing it for the sake of our members," he told The Daily Star.

Traditionally, he said, an agency can submit passports to the embassy only on two days in a week and highest 60 passports a day.

But once the visa centres are in operation, they can submit passports on five days. There will be no limit on the number of passports a week.

At present, only some 650 agencies are listed by the Saudi Embassy for sending Bangladeshi workers to the

kingdom, but once the visa centres are operational, all the 1,300 recruiting agencies will be enlisted.

Asked about the agencies' concern that the service centres will eventually turn into a syndicate, Baira Secretary General Noman said, "It's just a hypothesis."

He said, "There is no scope for syndication of violation of business privacy."

Talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday, Baira President Benjir Ahmed also echoed the same. "It is up to the Saudi embassy whether there will be a visa centre or not. It is the jurisdiction of the embassy to decide who will be in charge."

Replying to a query, the Baira president said he will monitor the operations of the centres and "will take action if irregularities are found".

Abdul Hye of Greenland Overseas said those opposing the Saudi visa centres are talking based on wrong perceptions.

"There is no way of syndication or manipulation. We have no scope to open the files the individual agents will submit to the visa centres," he told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

Expatriates' Welfare State Minister Imran Ahmed, Secretary Rownaq Jahan and Unique Eastern Managing Director Noor Ali did not respond to the calls or messages of this correspondent.

Rohingya crisis may disrupt security

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300,000 Rohingyas, who had already taken shelter in Bangladesh in the previous years to escape atrocities in Myanmar where they were denied citizenship and basic rights since 1982.

Myanmar signed a repatriation deal with Bangladesh in November 2017. In June last year, the UNDP and the UN Refugee Agency struck a tripartite deal with Myanmar on creating conditions conducive for Rohingya return.

Though the repatriation was scheduled to start in November last year, Rohingyas say conditions in Rakhine are not safe for them, and there is no guarantee that they will be granted citizenship.

Bangladesh sheltered the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds, but it is

bearing the brunt as their stay in Cox's Bazar is taking a heavy toll on forests, and local community and businesses.

In recent months, a number of Rohingyas were arrested in different parts of the country after they sneaked out of the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Dozens more were detained while trying to go abroad with Bangladeshi passports. Besides, scores of Rohingyas were found involved in drug trafficking.

The PM said, "It is very tough for us to arrange food, clothes and accommodation for over 11 lakh Myanmar nationals for an indefinite period."

Hasina, the leader of the House, said she repeatedly raised voice in different international forums that it is

Myanmar's responsibility to take back all the displaced Rohingyas and it has to take initiatives in this regard.

She also informed the House that world leaders are now putting immense pressure on Myanmar to stop inhuman torture on Rohingyas and take back its citizens from Bangladesh.

"At the 72th general assembly of the United Nations, I put forward a five-point proposal, including complete implementation of former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan Commission's recommendations, and also a three-point proposal on the sidelines of the 73rd general assembly for repatriation of over one million forcibly displaced Rohingyas."

Various international organisations and forums, such as the Organisation

of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) have been working to mount pressure on Myanmar to take back its nationals, she added.

The lawmakers' questions for the PM were tabled, breaking away from the usual practice in which the premier answers their queries directly. It was done so that the MPs had enough time to speak on the proposed budget for fiscal 2019-20.

Around 71 MPs were scheduled to participate in the budget discussion yesterday.

In reply to another query, Hasina said the government has set a target for creating some 1.5 crore jobs in the next five years.

ICC lawyer seeks probe into atrocities

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be made.

In September, judges ruled that even though Myanmar has not signed up to the ICC, the court still has jurisdiction over crimes against the Rohingya because Bangladesh, where they are now refugees, is a member.

The probe would be "within the context of two waves of violence in Rakhine State on the territory of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar", and other crimes that were "sufficiently linked", Bensouda said in a letter to the court.

Officials from the ICC have since

visited Bangladesh as part of the prosecutor's pre-liminary enquiries.

UN investigators have separately called for the prosecution of top Myanmar generals for "genocide".

Myanmar's army has denied nearly all wrongdoing, insisting its campaign was just-fied to root out

Rohingya insurgents who staged deadly raids on border posts in August 2017.

It has also "resolutely" rejected the ICC's assertion that it has jurisdiction over the crime, saying that the decision was in "manifest bad faith" and was of "dubious le-gal merit".

'Spinners have to control the middle overs'

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the numbers suggest that the main weakness is their pace bowling, with each of the three pacers -- skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mohammad Saifuddin and Mustafizur Rahman -- conceding runs at more than six an over.

In the seam-friendly conditions of England, it is a surprise that the spinners are the ones carrying the bowling effort with all three of Shakib Al Hasan, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and part-timer Mosaddek Hossain being much more economical.

"In these conditions, as you know, it is always challenging for the spinners," Mehedi, the most economical of the lot, conceding runs at 5.45 runs an

over, told reporters in front of their team hotel in Birmingham yesterday. "And if we can win against India, it will be a big gain from the World Cup. The next step will become easier. Spinners -- myself, Shakib bhai, Mosaddek bhai -- will have to play a role in terms of saving runs. Our role is important; we have to be able to control the middle overs."

While a lot of the talk around a bowling effort surrounds the first 10 overs and the last 10 overs, matches are often won and lost in the middle 30. A comment on the misfiring pacers that Bangladesh have taken two wickets in the first 10 overs only once in six matches, against New Zealand in their second match, but even then

it was the left-arm spin of Shakib that dealt the blows.

Shakib, the runaway performer of the World Cup so far, said after the win against Afghanistan that the spinners would benefit from some early wickets. In the matches they have won, they have managed fine without that help from the pacers. They allowed South Africa to score 177 for four in the middle overs during a stiff chase, but the spinners had extracted four wickets. Although the middle 30 cost 211 against West Indies, Bangladesh compensated yet again by taking four wickets that took the sting out of the West Indies charge. Against Afghanistan, Shakib ran riot and the middle overs is what made

the difference as Afghanistan scored just 118 runs for the loss of six wickets.

"There are two matches left; it's not like we should think that we must win the matches. We should instead be in our normal processes," Mehedi said before boarding a car that would take him, his wife, skipper Mashrafe and his family to a getaway to a Welsh village. "If we stay in the process that we had when we won our last two-three matches, then I think there will be an opportunity. If luck favours us, then Inshallah we will of course do something good."

The process has been to rely on spin in the middle overs, and that is what will be needed when the team get back to business.

SYLHET TRAIN DERAILMENT

Those responsible to face action

Minister warns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Whoever is responsible for the deadly train derailment in Boromchal area of Moulvibazar's Kualura upazila will be punished, said Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon.

The minister made the remark yesterday while visiting the victims of the accident that left at least four people killed and over 100 injured.

"We formed probe committees to thoroughly investigate the accident. If the probe reports find negligence of any official, no matter who the person is, he or she will be punished," the minister said.

On Sunday, Upaban Express, a Dhaka-bound intercity train from Sylhet, derailed on a bridge in Kulaura. One of the carriages of the train fell into a canal while two others fell close to the canal's banks.

Several passengers of the train alleged that the carriages were overcrowded.

Responding to a question regarding the complaints, the minister said, "Carrying more pas-sengers than its capacity in any vehicle -- trains, buses or vessels -- is risky. For the sake of their own safety, we urge the passengers not to board on any vehicle that exceeded its capacity."

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Woman raped in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth has allegedly raped a mother of two children in Mymensingh after manipulating her with false promise of marriage.

The reported incident took place early Tuesday in Nandail upazila where the 28-year-old victim works as a domestic help.

Nandail OC Monshur Ahammad said a few months ago, the victim had developed a relationship with Shamim Mia, who runs a tailor shop in Kaliganj Bazar.

On Monday evening, Shamim told her over phone that he was ready to marry her that very night.

"Shamim brought her to his shop around 11.30pm. He started giving excuses when the victim asked him why she was brought there. At one stage, Shamim raped her," the OC said, quoting the victim.

Two accomplices of Shamim -- Ripon Mia, 25, and Md Habib, 24 -- also attempted rape on the woman. But they fled when locals arrived at the spot hearing her cry for help, he said.

They rescued the woman and informed her family. The victim lodged a rape case against Shamim, Ripon, and Habib on Tuesday.

She was sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for medical test today, the OC told this paper, adding that police raids were on to arrest the three.

Female AL leader hacked to death in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A local female leader of ruling Awami League was hacked to death yesterday by an opponent group following rivalry over "drug trading and establishing supremacy" in Rupganj upazila's Chanpara Paschimgoan in the district.

The dead was identified as Beauty Akter Kutty, 35, a member of parliament from the reserved seats for women. She was also the president of local unit of Mohila Awami League.

The victim's daughter Parveen Akter filed a murder case with Rupganj Police Station accusing 11 named and four unnamed people, said Mahmudul Hasan, officer-in-charge of the station.

Police, however, could not arrest anyone till last night.

The victim was the wife of late local AL leader Hasan Muhuri, who was also stabbed to death in a clash with a rival group on October 29, 2017.

After Muhuri's killing, Beauty had filed a murder case against Anwar Hossain, president of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad, and his cohorts.

The criminals who killed Muhuri were the ones who killed Beauty, alleged Beauty's younger sister Kadobanu.

Both Muhuri and his Beauty were followers of local lawmaker Golam Dastagir Gazi, incumbent textiles and jute minister.

Beauty was allegedly involved in drug trading in the area and accused in two criminal cases, said police.

The district's superintendent of police (SP) Harun Or Rashid said the killing took place following rivalry over drug trading and establishing supremacy in the area.

Police is trying to trace the killers and arrest them, he said in a statement.

Quoting the victim's family, police said Beauty used to take morning walks because she was a diabetic patient.

When she went out for her walk yesterday morning, three unidentified

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