We used DNA to solve a ‘crime’

ISHITA JOHN, Class 10

RECENTLY, the Class 9 and 10 students of our school visited the DNA Lab at the Science Centre to learn more about forensic science. We learnt how DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) is used by forensic scientists to solve a crime or parental disputes. We even got a chance to use the micropipette, which scientists use to measure DNA. Unfortunately, some of us dropped it and our guide wasn’t pleased.

As a team of young forensic scientists at the DNA Analysis Laboratory, we were given an assignment. It was a very old case: Sam’s wife had been murdered and he had been arrested by the police as a suspect. But we had to check if he was the culprit and, if not, find the murderer.

After matching the blood obtained from the various parts of the crime scene and conducting DNA tests, we concluded that Sam wasn’t the murderer and that there was another person who had fled the scene leaving his blood stains. Sam couldn’t be proven guilty nor innocent by the police and this remained an open case.

Even though the DNA test was a long process and one had to be patient because one mistake would ruin all our efforts, it was a great experience. It inspired many of us to become forensic scientists.