

Father kills newborn twin daughters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A father killed his newborn twin-daughters in Bhandaria of Pirozpur in the early hours of yesterday.

Nazma Begum, 28, wife of Anwar Hossain, 35, of Ikry village gave birth to the twins Wednesday night.

Soon after the birth, Anwar left the house with the twins at midnight. Asked by the midwife, he said he was going to the mosque to get

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CTG ARMS HAUL

Kamal for probe body headed by ex-CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain has demanded formation of an independent and neutral inquiry commission headed by a former chief justice to investigate the recent arms haul in

Chittagong.

The probe committee headed by the home secretary cannot conduct an impartial investigation into the largest ever arms haul in the country, he thought.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Kamal Hossain said the

government should call an emergency session of parliament to discuss the matter and should also hold talks with the opposition and all concerned.

Leaving aside all contentious political issues, the government and

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Tofail tells of mass upsurge to oust govt by April 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) presidium member Tofail Ahmed yesterday said the government will be ousted through a mass upsurge by the April 30 deadline to end what he said was misrule of the ruling coalition.

"Forget about the deadline, people want the government to quit

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Egg, baby food, sugar turn pricey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of some groceries soared high during the last week, while back to back hartals in last two days brought escalation in vegetables' prices, kitchen market shoppers and traders said yesterday.

During a visit to city's different kitchen markets New Market, Hatirpool, Karwan Bazar this correspondent found yesterday egg, ginger, baby food, green chilly,

sugar were selling at prices much higher than those in the last month. However, prices of some groceries remained stagnant for a month since the last increase.

For its latest hike, baby food, especially the milk powder is now selling at Tk 235-240 from Tk 220-230 per Kilogram in last month.

Ginger now sells at Tk.70 per kilogram upped from Tk 40 a month ago. Eggs per dozen now sells at Tk

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Guerillas abduct 8 Koreans, 3 Japanese in Iraq

AP, Baghdad

Eight South Koreans and three Japanese were kidnapped by insurgents in Iraq, and captors armed with automatic rifles and swords threatened yesterday to burn the Japanese alive if Tokyo did not withdraw from the US-led coalition.

The Arabic TV station Al-Jazeera, broadcasting to Iraq and the rest of the Arab world, showed portions of a tape from a previously unknown group calling itself the "Mujahdeen Squadrons" showing the Japanese blindfolded and surrounded by gunmen. It also shows their passports.

Associated Press Television News obtained a copy of the full tape, which also shows four armed, masked men pointing knives and swords at the captives' chests and throats.

The South Koreans, believed to be Christian ministers who left for Iraq on April 5, were detained by unidentified "armed men" but one escaped, a Foreign Ministry official in Seoul told the news agency, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The South Korean Yonhap News

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Anti-graft law gathers dust

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is yet to decide a date to put the anti-corruption commission law into effect, two months into the passage of the legislation.

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the bill on February 17 after introduction on July 10 last year to deliver one of the key poll pledges of the ruling coalition leader BNP, but the government is dragging its feet on the formation of the commission to cut corruption.

But putting on a brave face, Law,

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, who is visiting the United States, said the legislation would take effect soon.

"The government will frame a set of rules at the end of this month to form the commission," Mouded told Alan Larson, US undersecretary of state and interim chief of Millennium Challenge Cooperation on Wednesday.

The government will have to promulgate the law through gazette notification as the first step to give it effectiveness from a specific date.

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Awami League legislator Asaduzzaman Noor along with fellow demonstrators, *left*, tries to rescue a picket from police near Baitul Mukarram National Mosque; and home-bound passengers, *right*, from abroad wait out anxiously at Zia International Airport during anti-government hartal yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Al-Qaeda calls for killing Americans

REUTERS, Dubai

One of Saudi Arabia's most wanted al Qaeda militants has called on Muslims to kill Americans everywhere and vowed attacks against Arab leaders allied to Washington, according to a video carried on an Islamist Web Site.

A masked man identified as Abdulaziz al-Muqrin in a video on the Dirasat Web Site said Americans

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Tigers kill 2 fishermen

Royal Bengal Tiger found dead in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Tigers pawed two fishermen dead in the Sundarbans in the last two days.

A tiger yesterday swooped on Sam Ali, 45, son of Momin Ali of

Manikpur village in Shyamnagar, killing him on the spot, when he was netting fish in Kaikhali canal in the morning. Another tiger killed Nur Ali, 50, son of Akkas Gazi of

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Abducted trader, SSC examinee freed in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Law enforcers yesterday rescued a kidnapped businessman and a female SSC examinee and held six suspected abductors at Godagari in Rajshahi.

Agang Tuesday abducted Rahat Ali Babu, owner of New Style Electronics, after he went to Rajshahi city, family sources said.

The gang kept Babu confined in a house in Talaimari area and forced him to sign a paper stating all belongings and properties of his electronics store would be handed over to one Belal Uddin, police said quoting the businessman as saying.

Motihar police held Shimul of Godagari, Shafiqul Islam of Bogra, Swapan and Rezaul of Rajshahi in front of Master Super Market in Godagari when they were loading valuables from Babu's store on a

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Man nabbed as Gittu Nasir proves fake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The person arrested by police is not notorious Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadre Gittu Nasir, as suspected earlier, confirmed sources in Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday.

The CMP sent a seven-member team to Chowddagram in Comilla on Wednesday that returned to Chittagong in the early hours of yesterday empty-handed, having been confirmed the man in doubt is not Gittu Nasir.

Chowddagram police arrested one Nasir taking him for Gittu Nasir after he was injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Chowddagram that left three people killed on the spot on Wednesday morning.

"Nasir, an ordinary man, was released yesterday," said sources in police.

Gittu Nasir, one of the topmost Shibir cadres of the port city, is accused of several criminal charges, including the murder of principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri, for which he faces death sentence a speedy trial tribunal handed down last year.

Prayer Timings		
April 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-40	5-15
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Trader buys freedom for Tk 10 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A businessman returned home to Magura yesterday, reportedly paying his abductors Tk 10 lakh to buy his way out of nine-day captivity.

Sanatan Kumar Paul, 45, kidnapped from home in town on the night of March 30, was released near Garaganj Bazaar in the neigh-

boring district of Jhenidah at about 10:00pm Wednesday, from where he went to his father-in-law's house in Jessore town.

"I don't know why they abducted me," Sanatan said but did not confirm the ransom apparently for security reasons. "They (abductors) provided me with medicine, as I sprained my left leg during the

kidnap."

The abductors also injured Sanatan's employee 26-year-old Biswajit Saha with gunshots as he tried to resist them during the abduction.

"My brother is weak from lack of food in captivity," said Sanatan's younger brother Suvas Kumar Paul,

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Embassy car kills schoolboy in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A western embassy car yesterday killed an 11-year-old boy during hartal hours at Baridhara in the capital.

The car (Am Ka-354) knocked down Ershad, son of Mohsin Fakir of Barisal, at around 11:30am when he was crossing Dutabas (Embassy) Road. The driver picked up speed and fled the scene, sources said.

Bystanders rushed the class five student to nearby Gulshan Group Clinic where doctors declared him dead.

Ershad reached Dhaka yesterday morning and went out to see the city after breakfast, said his brother-in-law Swapan Howlader.